MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 JULY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Israeli Air Attacks--Damascus television reported that a Syrian plane was hit when Syrian aircraft attempted to intercept Israeli planes bombing Palestinian targets in southern Lebanon on 14 July. According to Jerusalem radio, the Syrian MiG-23 was downed shortly after the dogfight began and crashed 45 km south of Beirut. The radio said the Israeli planes were attacking Palestinian bases in the coastal sector north of Sidon and northeast of An-Nabatiyah. It added that the Israeli planes returned safely to base, with the pilots reporting precise hits on their targets. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, however, reported that an Israeli plane has hit by ground fire and fell near Sidon. According to Beirut radio, 10 people were killed and about 30 others were wounded in the successive Israeli air attacks throughout the afternoon and early evening. The Voice of Palestine also reported that Israeli gunboats exchanged fire with Palestinian shore batteries near Sidon.

Commenting on the latest Israeli air raids in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan said Israel is continuing its policy of preemptive attacks on the Palestinians to prevent them from organizing and to destroy new equipment they have received from Libya, Syria and the Soviet Union, including rocket launchers and modern tanks. The damascus daily TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, accused the United States of encouraging Israel to carry out its latest air attacks in Lebanon so as to put pressure on Syria and as a preliminary to possible U.S. proposals and demands. TISHRIN warned that Syria will not be pressured into changing its stand and that attempts to lure it into a trap or into a battle whose location, time and weapons would be determined by Israel will fail.

Soviet Ambassador's Remarks--Beirut radio reported that after his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov said that because of its opposition to U.S. support for Israeli, the Soviet Union cannot coordinate with the United States over Lebanon. The radio later quoted Soldatov as calling for a solution to the Lebanese problem within the framework of the Soviet Union's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East aimed at securing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories occupied after 1967, a conference involving the PLO as the sole legal representative of the Palestinians and leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Soldatov stressed that there is no European initiative similar to the Soviet Union's proposal.

Israel

Jerusalem television reported that the military governor of Rafah was killed in an explosion north of the Rafah intersection. Two IDF soldiers and three Israeli policemen were injured in the incident. A Voice of Palestine report said Palestinian revolution forces were responsible for the explosion, which was a response to Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori's recent assertion that Israel has managed to stop Palestinian operations in Israel.

Libyan Invasion Claim

Jerusalem radio reported that an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman ridiculed Libyan claims that Israel and Egypt are planning a joint attack on Libya. According to Cairo radio, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Libya's allegation reflects the rejection front's "standard of mentality and comprehension" and is an attempt to divert attention from the Palestinian cause. MENA cited AL-JUMHURIYAH as saying that Egypt has enough to do to build peace and prosperity at home and in the region and has no time to contemplate the overthrow of Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which is the duty of the Libyan people alone.

Syria-Algeria

Algiers radio reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad left Algeria on 14 July after a short visit in which he held three rounds of talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. According to Damascus television, Al-Asad made a predeparture statement in which he said that his talks with Bendjedid had focused on the need to confront the "imperialist onslaught" in the Middle East and that he was very happy and completely satisfied with them.

Iran

Human Rights Issue--Tehran radio reported that in response to a letter from the chairman of a commission on human rights protesting the execution of "hundreds" of people in Iran without fair and public trial, the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied the allegations and asserted that Iran will continue its revolution and move in the direction of a true government of the oppressed. The Foreign Ministry questioned whether the commission had ever protested the executions or violations of human rights taking place in Israel, Iraq, New York, Latin America or the United Kingdom, and said it is suspicious about the commission's links with U.S. imperialism.

Rafsanjani Interview--In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the new law on political parties allows any group that wishes to engage in "healthy activities" to do so within the framework of the Constitution. He explained that if people are unbiased, they will have no reason to engage in illegal, underground or secret activities. Questioned on when the new president will assume office after the election, Rafsanjani said the Provisional Presidential Council will continue to be in charge until the elected person is confirmed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Executions, Arrests, Violence--According to AFP, two Tehran bazaar merchants were executed for "counterrevolutionary and subversive activities." AFP noted that this has been interpreted as an extension of the regime's crackdown on the leftist opposition to include nationalist groupings as well. Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that 135 leftists, including Mohahedin-e Khalq supporters, have been arrested in Kermanshah. AFP, citing ETTELA'AT, reported that two Islamic Republican Party office building in surburban Tehran were attacked with Molotov cocktails on 13 July. Tehran radio reported that dozens of "illegally armed elements" were killed or wounded during mopping-up operations carried out by government forces near Sar Dasht in Western Azarbayjan.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

According to Tehran radio, 59 Iraqi soldiers were killed in recent clashes on the Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb fronts. It also said Iraqi aircraft entered Iranian airspace over Sar Dasht on a bombing mission but were forced to flee before they could attack the Allaho Akbar heights. An armed forces communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed that Iranian forces repulsed an offensive by the Iraqi Army in the Susangerd region, capturing 11 Iraqi servicemen and killing about 40 others. The communique also said some of the Abadan oil installations were damaged by Iraqi artillery and long-range-weapon fire. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by INA, asserted that 48 Iranian soldiers were killed in the Ahvaz region and detailed minor Iranian losses on other fronts.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

NC141433 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1134 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Final part of interview of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar--by AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI magazine]

[Excerpts] Question: There are some who say that the Palestinian-Soviet relations have become somewhat tepid. What is your opinion on this?

Brother Abu 'Ammar replied: Strange. A short while ago you asked me also about tepidity in the Palestinian-Saudi relations and about tepidity in the relations with Jordan. This is the Palestinian revolution. This is the strategic turning point in this area. Therefore, I say, as Ben Bella has said: Enough. Stop putting all these burdens on the Palestinian revolution. Of course, there are journalists who like to link everything with the PLO. It seems that this is what is really happening. They try to do that. They are, of course, our brothers. As you know, there are many Arab regimes that do not tolerate such democracy and the press. But I think that democracy and the freedom of the press, as part of it, are a basic factor in the Israeli challenge.

Question: Of course, when we spoke about tepidity in the relations with this or that side, we were trying to point to an impression due to the possibility of a deal or a bargaining taking place between the two superpowers in the area. The question, therefore, is: Is the Palestinian resistance still widely acceptable?

Answer: First of all, I do not feel this tepidity between us and the Soviet comrades. Some time ago, Korniyenko came to Damascus and met with President al-Asad and myself. I was invited to visit the Soviet Union. I am only waiting for the suitable conditions to arise to pay this visit. There are contacts between us. Therefore, what is being said about this matter is not true. In the final analysis, as far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we are not a state--we are a revolution. Therefore, they cannot maneuver us.

Question: It seems that you have become a state in a revolution.

Answer: Of course, the position which the Palestinian revolution occupies has no precedence in the world. I am the first leader of a revolution in the 20th century who stands up in the UN General Assembly and speaks on behalf of his revolution. I do not speak on behalf of the Palestinian revolution alone, but on behalf of all the free people, the oppressed people and the liberation movements in the world. We have observer status in the United Nations, full membership in the Arab League and membership in the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference. During the last meeting in New Delhi, we had the position of deputy chairman. We are observers to the African summit. Of course, all this shows the status enjoyed by the Palestinian revolution. These achievements did not come easily but through a cascade of blood and the political observers' realization of the influence of the Palestinian revolution and the significance of the military stand which the Palestinian revolution is taking through the joint forces in a war of attrition, which is more ferocious than any ever seen in the Arab area despite the imbalance in forces.

Question: By the way, do you think that the institutions being established by the Palestinian revolution assist it or do they restrict its effectiveness?

Brother Abu 'Ammar replied: On the contrary, this helps the revolution. I need more of these institutions. Why? Because we are waging a cultural struggle against the enemy. The planning center, for example, must be three times bigger and more effective in order to be able to give me a daily report on the domestic policy trends in Israel alone.

It is the same with regard to the intelligence service, which at least should be able to protect the PLO members so they are not assassinated directly or indirectly at the hands of the Israelis.

Question: As a matter of fact, this question is related to the Palestinian camps: What has happened in these camps which we used to know, say, 10 years ago?

Answer: These camps have transformed a bunch of humiliated people who stood in line in front of the UN offices begging for small quantities of flour, sugar, soap and powdered milk into ranks of fighters struggling for liberty. This is the miracle we have succeeded in carrying out: We have turned our people from refugees into fighters.

Question: By the way, a delegation of the At-Tariq al-Jadidah inhabitants has met with the Lebanese prime minister to protest the existence of ammunition depots in residential areas. What's your stand on this issue?

Answer: A resolution has been issued by the military council stating that no depots are to be located in any [word indstinct].

Question: The resolution has not been implemented, Brother Abu 'Ammar.

Answer: I called for another meeting. The meeting was very vehement against the nonimplementation of this resolution. I have formed a committee, headed by a colonel, to inspect all the depots.

Question: However, people in many quarters are very disturbed.

Answer: In accordance with the resolution that was issued the depots will be removed.

Question: Does this resolution include the Lebanese parties as well?

Answer: I have conveyed this resolution to the executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement, Brother Mushin Ibrahim. He expressed his agreement to this resolution. The other members of the national party also expressed their agreement on this score.

Question: Is there a possibility that you may visit France?

Answer: It is not in the offing at present. However, it is not unlikely.

Question: Even though an official French statement has indicated that this is unlikely?

Answer: I can respond now, if I want, to the invitation of my friend Georges Marchais, considering that he is taking part in the government. Isn't that so?

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, do you believe that what has happened in France will affect the European initiative, or, let us say, the European proposals and views regarding the crisis in the area?

Answer: Undoubtedly, because the change in France is not merely a French change. It is also a European change. The question posed to Mitterrand here is this: Is Mitterrand a president of the Fifth Republic, or is he another De Gaulle. In the time of De Gaulle, the Algerian revolution, or rather Algeria, achieved its independence. Will Mitterrand be a president during whose term, and through whose role at European, Middle Eastern and world levels, the Palestinian people will be able to establish their independent state?

Question: This depends on the Arab attitude toward a European initiative led by France. Isn't that so?

Answer: I am not talking about a European initiative. There is no European initiative. There is a French effort. The Soviet initiative announced by Comrade Brezhnev and approved by the Palestine National Council, provides, among other things, for the participation of European elements as well as the United Nations in the conference. So, there is a basis, if there is to be a solution. This is why I said that we must be vigilant regarding the U.S. decision to liquidate the Palestinian revolution before it could reap the fruits--physical liquidation of the leadership by assassinating the leaders and liquidation of the base through U.S.-Israeli operations.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, let us say that this U.S. decision will never be fulfilled. Of course, you always say that the Palestinian revolution is the difficult number in the Middle East formula. There are options open to you. The French Socialists have spoken about a homeland, about patrie [last word in French], yes patrie which means homeland. So there are options including the so-called Jordanian option--talk about it has become monotonous--and there is what you advocate. Also, there are some who call for a Palestinian state beginning with Gaza and so on.

Answer: Patrie is not an entity and it is not a state. In your question you said that we are the difficult number in the Middle East formula. I now say that I challenge Reagan and Begin and anyone on their bandwagon to succeed in achieving a solution, or establish stability or security in the Middle East while ignoring the inalienable and unnegotiable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state. As I said at the beginning of this year, there will be no option other than the Palestinian option. There was Camp David, but what has it come to? Nothing! At the Palestinian, Arab and European levels it has achieved nothing. Even inside the U.S. administration there are various trends. At the level of the Egyptian people and the question of the normalization, it has failed. It has failed in all this.

Question: How are your relations with the Higher Shi'ite Council?

Answer: Good, and so are our relations with Amal. As you know there is one supreme coordination committee and one military coordination committee.

Question: But this is not the case on the streets; isn't that so?

Answer: We must admit that there are difficulties; there are difficulties on the Palestinian street, the Shi'ite street and the Lebanese street. There are difficulties but the situation now is very good. Also, do you think that the people in the Palestinian camps do not object to some of the erroneous Palestinian practices carried out by armed Palestinian elements. Yes, they do object, just as people on the Lebanese street object to certain erroneous practices by armed Palestinian and Lebanese elements. I am with them on this.

Question: But Brother Abu 'Ammar, results are what matters; the massacre of Al-Ghaziyah, for example. What was the result?

Answer: Am I also responsible for a crime committed because of differences over (?inheritance)? I am not responsible for every (?inherited) crime. When a delegation from Al-Ghaziyah came here I asked them to bring me the child who was the only witness to the crime. I said that I would guarantee his safety so he could speak. So far they have not responded. They even refused to produce the child before the Lebanese investigator. As a national movement and a Palestinian revolution, we place ourselves at their disposal, but they still refuse to bring the child forward for investigation.

Question: One thing remains: The invaluable role and influence of the Palestinian revolution in our region, in all the Middle East and at the level of the world liberation movements. This is why Reagan finds nothing to do except talk about the PLO. Even when Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the U.S. administration talked about the PLO. The U.S. administration said that world terrorism stems from three things: the Soviet Union, Cuba and the PLO. So, let us consider how the United States puts the PLO on a par with the Soviet Union.

Answer: Yes. In one of their official statements they spoke about Libya as being one of the powers supporting world terrorism. The Libyan leader answered by saying that if Libya's assistance to the Palestinian revolution is considered an act of terrorism, we welcome it.

KLIBI SAYS ISRAEL IGNORING U.S. ON WEAPONS USE

NC141250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] In a telephone conversation with Beirut, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi commented on the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He said: The Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which resulted in scores of innocent victims during the past 2 days, seems to try to convey to the United States that Israel alone will decide whether to use U.S. weapons for defensive purposes or not. Israel is doing this at a time when a U.S. official is investigating whether or not the Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor is considered as an act of aggression that violates the U.S. law under which the Israeli planes were turned over to Israel. Hence, Israel wants to prove that it alone can make a decision on this. The Israeli aggression against Lebanon is also serving as a means to convey to the Camp David parties that Israel regards Lebanon and the Palestinian people as fair game and that the United States and As-Sadat's Egypt should accept these acts of terrorism as a constant element in the situation created by As-Sadat's pact with Israel.

GAZA BOMBING CALLED ANSWER TO TZIPORI STATEMENT

NC150750 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Excerpt] In Damascus, a military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces has stated that in the afternoon of 14 July, a special group of the Martyr Kamal 'Udwan Unit, which is operating inside the occupied homeland, proceeded to a designated target. The group managed to plant a remote-controlled explosive charge on the highway between Rafah and Khan Yunus in the Gaza sector. When the car of the Zionist military governor of Rafah and that of his aides was driving by, the bomb was detonated. It killed Rafah Military Governor Lt Col Eli (Shahaq), killed or injured the five soldiers and intelligence men accompanying him and destroyed the two vehicles. The area of operation was immediately surrounded by hundreds of enemy soldiers, policemen and intelligence men, who launched a major combing operation in search of those who carried out the operation who managed to leave the area. Palestinian citizens were prevented from leaving or entering the area. The Zionist police arrested well over 100 Palestinian youths. The area was still encircled at midnight, when this communique was released.

It should be noted that this operation is an answer to Zionist Deputy War Minister Tzipori's statement 2 days ago, that Israel managed to stop and put an end to Palestinian operations in the occupied land.

SAUDI ARABIA

HABIB RETURNS TO JIDDA ON CONTINUING MISSION

LD132136 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2117 GMT 13 Jul 81

[Text] Jidda, 13 Jul (SPA)--Philip Habib, special envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, arrived in Jidda today on a visit to the kingdom. At the airport he was met by Salim Sunbul, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; a representative of the royal protocol; and by Mr Robert Newman, U.S. ambassador to the kingdom.

Seen as Persona Non Grata

PM141532 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 12 Jul 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The American Ranch and the Israeli Cowboys"]

[Excerpts] Israel found nothing better to welcome Philip Habib's arrival than to launch a 1-hour raid on Lebanon, killing and wounding scores of people, and threatening to do even more every time the U.S. envoy comes to the area. This has been the case to the extent that the inhabitants of the south know the time of the raids and go into hiding, praying that the visit of Kissinger's successor will not last long, or else what is left of their houses will be demolished. Meanwhile Washington did not condemn what Israel has done as it usually does, probably because there was a fault in the computer so that it stopped talking. The envoy also preferred to remain silent as usual after he found that Tel Aviv is paving the way by all the means available to it for assuming the "lofty position" the White House has promised it, that is, to chair the "autonomy" talks in the fall. Meanwhile Habib is working toward entrenching the Israeli intransigence; it is as if Washington had sent him only in order to meet Israel's endless demands and had nothing to do with the Middle East crisis as a whole. Thus all that he claimed when he first arrived in the Middle East was simply aimed at deceiving the Arabs. Fortunately the trick has been discovered before it is too late. It has become necessary to watch the man's movements very carefully. It would be better if he left the area the same way he came, or otherwise clarified his stand finally--although it has become quite clear--and spared himself the trouble of shuttling between Arab capitals, which have begun to look on him as persona non grata.

Philip Habib is not as shrewd as Kissinger, but he is equally loyal and devoted to serving Israel. Both men have harmed the Arabs greatly and both have proved the increasing deviousness of Washington's policy.

The question that is being urgently asked now is: What is Habib doing in the area and why is he remaining silent over his activities, which have become suspicious and of which, as we said, we should beware. He has offered nothing on the Lebanese crisis or the fabricated missiles crisis, nor has he come to gather information, as is usually the case. So far he has conveyed no solutions from Washington to those concerned. All that can be said about him is that he sees with Israeli eyes, thinks only Israeli thoughts, and carries out only Israeli plans. We have never heard him blaming Israel for its behavior, or trying to dot the i's and cross the t's, or adopt a neutral stand. In fact, he has outdone "dear Henry's" traveling to and from across the Middle East as if the area were an American ranch under the command of a Zionist cowboy.

UAE

ABU DHABI'S CRUDE OIL EXPORTS FALL 12 PERCENT

GF141108 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 14 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jul (ENA)--Abu Dhabi's total oil exports during the first quarter of this year have declined by over 12 percent compared with the same period last year.

According to figures released today by the Central Bank, the exports totaled 109.24 million barrels or 1.215 million barrels per day against 124.6 million barrels or 1.384 million barrels per day during the same period last year.

Dubai's exports have also declined, but by a lower percentage from 31 million barrels during the first quarter of this year to 30.9 barrels during the same period in 1980.

The exports of Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer in the UAE, are reportedly running at a low of little over a million barrels per day following a decision to cut back oil production by 10 percent by the majority of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, at the 60th ministerial meeting in Geneva last May.

The UAE has a sustainable capacity to produce about 2.5 million barrels per day, but the maximum capacity reached was recorded in 1979 with 1.85 million barrels per day.

Current total production stands at nearly 1.4 million barrels per day.

According to the Central Bank figures, the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Operations (ADCO) has exported about 52.7 million barrels, the Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (ADMA-OPCO) 47.9 million, the Abu Dhabi Oil Company-Japan Ltd., 2.8 million and Amerada Hess less than a million.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES

EA131730 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Jul

["Text" of interview of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Abu Dhabi daily AL-WAHDAH--publication date not specified; read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Brother President, what stage have relations between Aden and Baghdad reached after the crisis between the two countries? Is there detente in relations, especially after your meeting with President Saddam Husayn during the At-Ta'if summit and the visit by your foreign minister to Baghdad to attend the conference of Arab foreign ministers, and his meetings with officials there?

[Answer] There is nothing like a crisis in relations between us and Iraq. We have more issues of pan-Arab destiny that bring us together than divide us. We are interested in maintaining our principled stands against our nation's enemies and facing up to the threats of the imperialist and Zionist enemies.

[Question] Brother President, it has been reported recently that you are making efforts to clear the air between Syria and Iraq, out of concern for unity in the light of recent developments such as the heightening [of tension] by the Americans and the Israelis against the Arab nation. If it is true you are making such efforts, is this then part of the framework of your policy aimed at mobilizing Arab energy to face the common enemy?

[Answer] We have exerted efforts with all our brothers who are concerned about their people's development, in order to mobilize all Arab energy--and there is so much of it outside the battlefield--to confront the Zionist enemy and his allies.

We have not despaired yet, despite our feeling that there are some who are working to keep the Arab region marking time where it is; that is to say, to allow imperialist influence and Zionist aggression against the Arab nation to continue.

[Question] Brother President, no doubt you are acquainted with the important interview given by your brother Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, to AL-MUSTAQBAL magazine , which he defined many stands in relation to current developments in a number of regional, Arab and international issues, and especially about the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Arab relations with the USSR and the United States on the basis of who is the Arab enemy and who gives and supplies Israel's weapons. Is that in harmony with your viewpoints on these issues?

[Ansser] We hold the same position, and our stand agrees with the views of our brother Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuyayyan. He was (?precise) in his analysis of the nature of the situation in the region and the nature of the conflict with the enemy and in his affirmation that the threat facing us is that supporting Israel and not the type that supports the Arabs. [sentence as heard] Indeed there are those who want to use political blackmail against our Soviet friends while they turn their backs on the Zionist enemy, who is behaving outrageously everywhere under the protection of U.S. spy planes and with U.S. support. In any case, our Arab peoples are very aware of their causes and are conscious of the facts and able to differentiate enemies and friends. It is no longer possible for anyone to conceal the facts of reality.

[Question] Tension has suddenly appeared between Muscat and Aden. The two sides have accused each other of repeated aggression. Each side has lodged its complaint against the other with the Arab League as a result of those aggressions. Would you explain to us the actual, current situation between the two countries and do you think the situation is potentially explosive? What do you think?

[Answer] There is nothing that could be described as sudden in the tense situation. The situation has been tense for many years but the regime of the Sultanate of Oman has recently overreached itself to the extent that it has become difficult for us to exercise self-control beyond endurance. A number of our citizens have been kidnapped from Hawf Province in the Mahrah Governorate. In a memorandum to the Arab League we have demanded their immediate return. We are waiting to see what will happen in this regard.

[Question] Following recent developments in Aden and Muscat, what is the fate of the mediation mission undertaken by Kuwait and the UAE aimed at elminating tension between the two countries and establishing normal relations? Is there any hope of mediation efforts continuing, any possibility of their success?

[Answer] The Omani regime blasted the mediation mission from the outset. This is known to our brothers in Kuwait and the UAE. Despite this, we have recently exchanged views with the brothers in the UAE and Kuwait and defined the foundations which, from our point of view, are needed to make the mediation successful. We must stress that our relations with the fraternal people of Oman will not be affected by the behavior and follies of the regime there. We wish the fraternal people of Oman every prosperity and success. When we supported their revolution, our intention was to express our loyalty to pan-Arab causes and to support the Omani people in their attempt to rid themselves of persecution and oppression and to gain freedom and democracy.

[Question] Every now and then we hear much about the potential and benefits of European initiatives to help solve the Arab question, in view of Europe's independent position as a means of putting pressure on Israel and the United States for a solution in the region. How do you regard this and what is your opinion of such a European role?

[Answer] I do not believe there is any difference between the American position--Camp David--and the European position. The thing is that friends of Camp David in West Europe wanted, through prior coordination and agreement with the United States, to beautify Camp David's face and salvage it from the crisis into which it had fallen by adopting new proposals to solve the Middle East crisis. What I envisage is that the decisive solution for the Arab peoples, whose cause it is together with their friends. [sentence as heard] more for anything from the United States and its allies in West Europe has become a mere mirage intended to deceive us.

[Question] Brother President, we have heard your repeated calls for a new summit of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in Aden, but we have not heard anything new so far. Does the invitation still stand; when will the conference be held; and what will be the most prominent issues placed before it?

[Answer] We have called for a summit conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, and we have already made contacts in this regard. We did not make meeting in Aden a condition because the venue is not important. What is important is the nature of the issues we shall be considering in the light of the complicated and difficult circumstances in which the Arab homeland is living.

[Question] The Gulf and Peninsula region is still passing through an atmosphere of rumors and unfounded reports as a result of its international importance. In the middle of all this, we hear much about the need to protect this region from foreign powers, especially the United States, which has announced the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force, while the people of the region have rejected all forms of intervention and protection. What is new in your position on this, bearing in mind that the United States is undertaking the construction of bases and being given military facilities in a number of states in this region and in Somalia? What is new also in your call for a regional summit conference?

[Answer] We have expressed our views openly. We are against imperialist threats. We shall oppose any threats to our peoples and we shall resist any aggression. We shall support our brothers in this region if the oilwells or any other Arab area are subjected to armed intervention by the American interventionist forces. From the beginning we have drawn attention to this dangerous situation. We have warned against disregarding the terrorism practised by American imperialism in the Arab region through the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force and the building of new military bases in Muscat, Somalia and Egypt, as well as developing and expanding the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia. We have called for a summit of the states of the Gulf, the Peninsula, the Horn of Africa and other concerned parties, with the aim of reaching decisive and tangible results for the complete liquidation of imperialist military bases in this region. While some parties have responded to our call, there are others--under the pressure and influence of U.S. imperialism--which have not come out with clear views on the matter. In any case, the attitude adopted toward our call amounts to the attitude toward the subject matter of the invitation.

Those who are not interested in security and do not cherish the cause of independence and sovereignty are quite capable of committing the folly of betraying the higher national interests of their people. These are the people who have transformed their territory into camps and bases for imperialist aggression against our peoples.

[Question] Brother President, in view of As-Sadat's continual attempts to get out of the isolation which resulted from his defeatist policy, his separate settlement with the Zionist enemy, his restoration of relations with Sudan and his visit to that country, it is being said in foreign press circles that there are possibilities of his return to the fold on the basis of the claim that what he had undertaken was no more than an effort which could have just as easily failed as succeeded. What would be the postiion of the PDRY toward such a possibility, especially since your hard-line stance concerning his policy is known by virtue of your membership of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front?

[Answer] As-Sadat is definitely in a dead-end street, but what is there after that--after the peace he was so concerned about turned into capitulation and after he perpetrated something worse, namely, demanding to join NATO? I view the conspiracy as being bigger than others imagine. There are many others in it besides As-Sadat. For this reason we refuse to meet with these conspiring parties. We do not think others who have no connection with the matter will agree to join.

[Question] Brother President, recently the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes the Gulf countries, emerged as a framework for cooperation in all fields--political, military, economic and others. Part of its task is to coordinate joint stands on developments and events in the region. What is your view of this step; what is your position on it; and how do you envisage your future relations with the Gulf countries after the formation of this council.

[Answer] We are not against any regional cooperation. On the contrary, we support any move which tends to unite the countries of the region. But what has drawn our attention is the presence of the Sultanate of Oman in the Cooperation Council. It is a sultanate whose regime has announced the offer of military facilities and bases to the United States while the other states of the region--I mean Kuwait and the UAE--opposes such a policy as a threat to the region involving it in the whirlpool of tension and (?instability).

'ALI COMMENTS ON SINAI FORCE AGREEMENT SIGNING

NC141712 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)--The agreement reached between Egypt, the United States and Israel on the multinational force that will take up positions along the international border between Egypt and Israel, following Israel's withdrawal from Sinai on 25 April next year, will be signed in London on Friday.

The agreement will be signed on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Ambassador Tahir Shasin, on the Israeli side by Foreign Ministry Director General Ambassador David Kimche, and on the U.S. side by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and leader of the U.S. delegation to the tripartite discussions Michael Sterner.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the agreement restores Egypt's full sovereignty over every inch of Sinai after Israel's withdrawal on 25 April next year and that it conforms with all the contents of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. 'Ali added that following the approval of the three sides, official contacts have actually been initiated with friendly states regarding their participation in the multinational force. He said that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali is now touring six Latin American states to invite them to participate in this force. Contacts in this regard will also be held with states in Western Europe, Europe and Asia.

'Ali further said that this agreement is considered an implementation of the security arrangements stipulated in the peace treaty and that the agreement will be submitted to the United Nations to be kept as a document together with the treaty.

'Ali added that contacts will later be held with the Israeli side to convene the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee to discuss the steps related to the takeover of the remaining part of Sinai next April.

It is known that the agreement stipulates that the force will consist of three lightly-armed battalions, including one American battalion, which will take up positions in Sharm ash-Shaykh. The two other battalions will be of other nationalities and they will take up positions in Rafah. The force will be equipped with a reconnaisance helicopter unit and four boats.

The agreement also stipulates that the director general of the force will be American and will serve a term of 4 years, and that the commander in chief, who will be chosen from one of the participating nationalities, will serve a term of 3 years.

It is worth mentioning that the early warning station, which has a staff of 200, will continue to operate in Sinai and so will the UN observers organization that has been operating in Sinai for years and is considered a symbol of the United Nations.

During the signing of the agreement Ambassador Tahir Shasin will be accompanied by Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi, a member of the Egyptian delegation to the tripartite discussions and leader of the Egyptian side to the joint Egyptian-Israeli military committee.

REACTION TO LIBYAN REPORT OF INVASION PLAN

'Ali Comments

NC142028 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has commented on Libyan reports about the possibility of an Egyptian invasion of Libya. He said that what Libya has said reflects the standard of mentality and comprehension of the rejection front.

This front, he said, is trying to divert attention from the main cause of the Arab nation, namely the Palestine cause. He added: Whereas Egypt gives every attention to the Palestine issue and makes efforts to promote a just solution to this problem, the rejection states are making attempts far removed from the Palestine question. This is in addition to Libya's attempts to threaten security and stability in the African states.

Officials, Papers Cited

NC142301 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)--In tomorrow's edition AL-AHRAM publishes a statement by an official Egyptian source stressing that the imaginary story that Libya announced yesterday--about the discovery by its intelligence organs of an invasion plan of its territory which Egypt and Israel are about to carry out--reveals the mentality of the foolish people who run the affairs of the state in Libya. The source asks: Why have the imaginations of these foolish people tried to involve Israel with us in the imaginery plan that they have discovered? Don't they know that if Egypt were contemplating such an action it is capable of implementing it alone, with its own military strength?

The source told AL-AHRAM that Egypt has very clearly told Libya through the European state which Libya asked to contact Egypt and through Al-Qadhdhafi's relative, whom he sent to Cairo, that Egypt will hold Al-Qadhdhafi personally responsible if any Libyan or a Libyan agent tries to explode one dynamite stick in any Egyptian city.

Commenting on the imaginary plan, which the official Libyan news agency disseminated to the effect that this (?invasion) was suggested at a meeting which was held last March between President as-Sadat, Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and Israeli Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah emphasized to AL-AHRAM that he has never met with Sharon.

In this regard, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses in tomorrow's edition that there are two objectives behind this accusation against Egypt by Al-Qadndhafi's organ: The first is to divert the world's attention from the Libyan involvement in Chad and elsewhere and to end the African and world condemnation of Al-Qadhdhafi and his regime. The second objective is to impress upon the Libyan people the existence of an external danger along their border in order to preoccupy them with this imaginery danger and divert them from their main battle, to get rid of Al-Qadhdhafi, who has wasted the people's wealth and resources and the lives of their sons in reckless, futile adventures.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Al-Qadhdhafi is desparately trying to impress upon the world that he is not the only one who plans to invade the territories of neighboring states and occupy them.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the entire world knows who Al-Qadhdhafi is and it also knows that Egypt has too much to do vis-a-vis the building of peace and prosperity on its land and in our region to allow it time to contemplate the overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi, because this is not the duty of Egypt but the duty of the Libyan people alone.

WEEKLY REPORTS COUP ATTEMPT, INSTABILITY IN LIBYA

NC150806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)--Cairo's weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH, published today, quotes reliable sources in the Libyan capital as saying that an attempted military coup took place in Libya after Colonel al-Qadhdhafi returned from his recent visit to the Soviet Union. The attempted coup was made by a group of Libyan officers who reject Al-Qadhdhafi's policy.

The magazine says that the Libyan authorities arrested these officers after the attempt failed and that two officers said to have led the coup were executed without trial.

Quoting eyewitnesses from Libya, the magazine says that the state of tension and instability has increased in Libya, in Bengazi, and that illuminated advertisements for the "Green Book" along the road to Tripoli airport have been broken by stones as an expression of the Libyan people's indignation and resentment.

SABOTAGE WITNESS CITED ON LIBYAN ACTIVITY IN CHAD

NC141643 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 14 Jul (MENA)--Next Sunday, the supreme court in Marsa Matruh, headed by Col Bakr Tawfiq, will issue its verdict on the Libyan intelligence agent, defendent Kamal Mujadir 'Abd al-Karim, who has confessed throughout the stages of his investigation and trial that he is a member of the terrorist group formed by Libyan intelligence to carry out acts of terror and destruction in Egypt's population centers and against its vital interests.

Other members of the court include Col Ibrahim Hasanayn and Maj Sa'd 'Umran, along with the participation of Col Fathi Qutub, who is the chief military prosecutor.

A witness in the case, called 'Abd al-Wahab Naji Ruwaq, succeeded in escaping from Libya. After returning to Egypt he revealed that the Libyan authorities had recruited him into the Libyan Army. He was assigned to go on a military mission to the Republic of Chad to support the invading Libyan forces, which are facing difficulties due to the violent resistance they are encountering.

The witness added that the Libyan authorities are pouring forces into Chad to replace the enormous losses sustained by the Libyan Army. He said the Libyan authorities are deceiving the soldiers and officers by telling them that they are going on missions inside Libya's territories. The Libyan soldiers and officers subsequently discover that they were going to Chad to fight.

The witness said that Al-Qadhdhafi has issued orders to bury the Libyan soldiers and officers killed in action in Chad inside Chad. He said that this came in the wake of a popular outcry when the Libyan people discovered that the bodies of their sons were being transferred in plastic bags for burial in desolate areas in the Libyan desert.

The witness went on to say that the Libyan authorities had issued him a Libyan passport and that he had been transferred from his work in the Libyan Ministry of Industry to training camps where he was trained to assemble and disassemble Belgian weapons, Russian Kalashnikovs, medium-caliber machineguns, handgrenades and silencer-equipped pistols.

The witness announced that the Libyan barracks in Al-Bayda and Al-Birkah in Banghazi and Bardaa, which is located south of (Abu-Zarqan), have numbers of mercenaries and traitors as well as Sudanese and Tunisian renegades and other citizens from Arab and African countries who are assigned to carry out terrorist activities inside their own countries to create disturbances and riots.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 398

JN141714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)--Our armed forces stationed along the confrontation line inflicted on the Persian enemy in the past 24 hours 103 dead and destroyed various types of arms and military equipment.

Communique No 398 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that our forward units pounded Persian enemy concentrations in Gilan-e Gharb and Mimak and inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment on them. Our units raided other Persian enemy positions in the Ahvaz area, using various kinds of weapons, and killed 40.

Communique No 398 issued by the Armed Forces General Command follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces continue to carry out their activities in the operational sectors with high capability. The results of the military activities last night and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Ten killed and three vehicles destroyed in front of our units' positions in the Nowsud area.
B. An enemy concentration was observed in front of our units positions in the Gilan-e Gharb area. The concentration was hit and forced to retreat after suffering 14 dead.
C. Three killed in the Mimak area in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Our forward units pounded enemy concentrations opposite them in the Dezful area, killing 13 and destroying 1 vehicle, 1 gun and 1 observation post.
E. Eight killed and one personnel carrier, three vehicles and three guns destroyed in the Shush area.
F. Three killed and one tank, one vehicle, one excavator, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
G. One of our forward units attacked with various types of weapons the enemy position in the Ahvaz region, killing 40 soldiers and destroying 1 tank and 1 armored personnel carrier. Also in the same area, eight enemy personnel were killed and two observation posts were destroyed.
H. Four killed and one infantry position, two vehicles and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses are 103 killed and 1 infantry position, 2 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 10 vehicles, 4 guns, 1 excavator, 3 hardware stockpiles and 4 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles, one gun, one mortar and one rocket launcher damaged.
C. The Persian enemy shelled Al-Basrah city with enemy artillery this morning. Our losses because of this shelling were seven civilians injured.

III. At 1410 today, enemy planes raided the Duran area in the As-Sulaymaniyah region. Our ground resistance confronted enemy planes and forced them to flee. Our losses in this air raid were two civilians injured.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 July 1981

SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE RESUMES WORK 14 JUL

JN141044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)--The international conference for solidarity with Iraq against imperialism and Zionism resumed its work this morning to hear speeches by other participating delegations. Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and chairman of the conference, announced that the conference has received messages from some patriotic figures who could not attend the conference due to the prevailing circumstances in their countries and the practices of their dictatorial governments. Na'im Haddad read a message from Lutfi al-Khuli, the well-known Arab writer and secretary of the Arab Affairs Department at the Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party in Egypt. In his message, Al-Khuli described the conference as an embodiment of the will of the Arab people, with their various political and ideological trends, to confront the Zionist-imperialist aggression. He expressed his regrets at being unable to attend the conference for reasons beyond his control, namely because the authorities refused to give him permission to leave. He called on the conference to rise to the level of the challenges and confront the aggressions.

FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARRIVE TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

JN142059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2022 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)--Several Arab and world personalities arrived in Baghdad this evening to participate in celebrations marking the 13th anniversary of the 17 July revolution. Arriving in Baghdad tonight were Joseph Abu Khatir, Lebanese minister of state, as representative of President Ilyas Sarkis; ('Abd al-Wahhab Safi), Afghan Justice Minister [name and title as received]; Rudolf Rohlicek, Czechoslovak deputy premier and Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee member; Stavros Dhimas, Greek minister without portfolio; (Peter David), Danish Foreign Min[illegible]ry under secretary; (Sayf Sharif), member of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party [illegible]zania; Lin Hujia, PRC minister of agriculture; (Rubaka Rolonakik), minister of provi[illegible]n Sri Lanka; Harun al-Rasyid Zain, Indonesian minister of manpower and transmigration; [illegible] (Ilyas Ibrahim), deputy minister of defense in the Maldives.

Soviet Official Arrives

JN150815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)--Other representatives of friendly countries arrived in Baghdad today to participate in the celebrations marking the 13th anniversary of the 14 and 17 July revolutions. Mikhail Prokof'yev, CPSU Central Committee member, chairman of the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society and minister of education; Romulo Espaldon, Philippine minister of state for Muslim affairs, and Munir Raif Guney, Turkish minister of village affairs and cooperatives, arrived in Baghdad to participate in the celebrations.

IRANIAN SOLIDERS URGED TO DEFECT, FIGHT KHOMEYNI

NC141412 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Officers and NCO's of the Iranian Armed Forces' Khomeyni's warmongering regime has new dreams for you. When this merciless regime can execute a 12-year-old child, it will not have mercy on you, officers and NCO's, either. You should choose--surrender to the regime and accept death with your hands tied or courageously rise to help your compatriots who are captives as a result of the Khomeyni regime's war and save them from (?annihilation). Your combatant Kurdish brothers will welcome you, as will Iraq. Choose your path--death or rescuing Iran and the Iranians from Khomeyni's murderous regime.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI AIR STRIKES OF 14 JUL

NC141536 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] There have been two Israeli air raids this afternoon. The first raid was against the areas of Al-Jurmuq, Al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Zifta and 'Arab Salim in the south. The second was against the areas of As-Sa'diyat, Al-'Jiyah an-Na'imah and Ad-Dalahmiyah on the outskirts of (Ad-Dibbiyah), Barja and B'asir in Ash-Shuf.

Our radio correspondents report that there are enormous losses and that fires have broken out. Armed men have been seen firing from cars along the Khaldah Road to allow ambulances to move the wounded to hospitals in Beirut. Sirens have been sounded in the Palestinian camps and the Sidon-Beirut highway has been cut off. Movement at Beirut International Airport has come to a standstill.

The Israeli warplanes, which began their two raids at 1615 today, consisted of 6 Phantom and 2 F-15 planes. The Palestinian news agency WAFA issued a statement a short while ago saying that the Palestinian ground positions have downed an Israeli plane. The statement says that the plane was seen falling in the direction of the occupied terrories.

A few moments ago, our correspondent reported that there are 14 casualties in the ranks of the Palestinians. In the meantime, we point out that two Syrian MiG warplanes have flown at a very low altitude over the areas of Al-Hazamiyah and B'abda and then turned toward Al-Biqa'.

Further Details

NC141815 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpts] More than 20 Israeli warplanes participated in successive air raids this afternoon on Palestinian positions in the areas of Ad-Damur and An-Nabatiyah. There were dogfights between the Syrian and Israeli planes in the skies of Rum township in Jazzin district. A Syrian MiG-23 fell in (Wadi al-Marawid) between the outskirts of An-Nab'ah and Sidon; the pilot was killed.

Preliminary information indicates that 8 persons were killed and 40 others were wounded in these raids. Positions in Ad-Damur and An-Nabatiyah used SAM-7 missiles, which were fired from shoulder-carried launchers, but they failed to hit the raiding planes.

The Israeli planes extended their flights to the skies of Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid in the north where they were met with antiaircraft fire. Several explosions were heard in the area and some planes broke the sound barrier.

In their raid, the Israelis used parachute [midhalliyah] bombs weighing 150 kg each. These bombs fall in the manner of a pilot suspended from his parachute. The air raids continued intermittently from 1615 [1415 GMT] to 1730.

The Israeli warplanes resumed their reconnaissance flights over the areas that had been bombed at 1745.

In the meantime, it has been reported from Sidon that fire was opened on an Israeli boat while it was trying to approach the city's beach. The boat fired a rocket at Sidon Port before sailing back; there was no loss of life.

Letter to Security Council

NC150640 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Ten persons were killed and about 30 others were wounded in yesterday afternoon's Israeli air attacks on several areas in southern Lebanon and along the coast. Grave material losses in property and crops was reported.

Lebanon has submitted a letter to the UN Security Council presented by the charge d'affaires of the Lebanese mission in New York to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim. The letter says that the Israeli Government appears to be persistent in its so-called preemptive strikes policy, thereby challenging UN resolutions, the 1949 armistice agreement and the principles of international law.

The Lebanese Government reserves the right to call on the UN Security Council to take action and follow up previous complaints. It also asks that the letter to Waldheim be considered one of the UN General Assembly's documents on the situation in the Middle East.

AL-WAZZAN COMMENTS ON HABIB MISSION, ISRAELI RAIDS

NC141718 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Concerning Philip Habib's mission, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I neither want to attack nor defend Habib. However, for such a visit to coincide with the [Israeli] raids, this is painful to us. Such a thing cannot be explained, because the raids were going on before and during Habib's mission, and will continue to go on as long as the Arabs and the international community cannot attain--as they have not attained so far--any firm stance with regard to Israel. Such a stance cannot be firm, on the other hand, unless it implements penalties against Israel.

The prime minister concluded: After Habib's recent visit, I said that his discussions with us were confined to the framework of his basic mission for which he originally came here, namely: The missile crisis and whatever relation it has to Lebanon's affairs. Mr Habib never discussed with us any concepts related to the resolution of the Lebanese problem or the Middle East problem. On the contrary, he was insisting that his mission is originally confined to the issue of the missiles.

SOVIET ENVOY COMMENTS AFTER AL-WAZZAN MEETING

NC141230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Wazzan reviewed with the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Beirut the situation in the south after the Israeli aggression and later statements by Israeli officials voicing their intention to pursue these aggressions. The prime minister also discussed possible moves by Washington and Moscow aimed at putting a stop to these Israeli aggressions against Lebanese territories.

The U.S. ambassador refused to make any statement after the meeting.

The Soviet ambassador, however, said that Prime Minister al-Wazzan had handed him a message which was a good one, as usual. On the contents of the message, he said: As a matter of fact, most of our meeting was spent discussing the south.

On possible Soviet moves aimed at coordination with the United States with regard to Lebanon, the USSR ambassador said: The USSR is taking a stand opposite to that of the United States. We are denouncing the Israeli aggressive acts and Israel's aggressive policy and the parties that are supporting Israel. Consequently, there can be no coordination in this respect.

The ambassador was told that what is required is more than just a denunciation or a solution to the issue of the south. To this he said: Our role has always been a positive one. In reply to another question, the Soviet ambassador said that there was a European initiative on the Middle East [as heard].

Outlines Lebanon Plan

NC141650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] On a possible general European-Soviet coordination with regard to the Middle East crisis, the Soviet ambassador in Beirut said: First of all, we would like to note that there is no European initiative concerning the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East problem which is similar to the USSR's proposal, which calls for convening a conference on the Middle East whose goals would be firm and clear. These are:

1. The conference must resolve the issue of the withdrawal of the Israeli forces--considering that they are aggressive forces--from all the occupied Arab territories that were occupied after 1967.
2. The Soviet proposal means that the PLO would participate within the framework of this conference in its capacity as the sole legal representative of the Arab Palestinian people.
3. We believe that such a conference would make the appropriate resolutions pertaining to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

The Soviet ambassador added: Lebanon must have the better bargain of the Soviet proposal because Lebanon must be independent, free and sovereign.

HADDAD SPEAKS ON SITUATION, SYRIAN INTENTIONS

Speech on Habib, Syrians

NC131330 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 1000 GMT 13 Jul 81

[Address by free Lebanon commander Maj Sa'd Haddad--live or recorded, intercepted in progress]

[Text] I hope that [words indistinct]. We welcome you, Philip Habib, coming home, (?for) you are from Lebanon. We know that. And I hope for you all success in solving the problem--not only the problem of the missiles, because I see that the problem became too much [words indistinct] after what happened and after the combined maneuvers between the Russians and the Syrians. And I hope that you succeed to find a way how to (?expel) the Russians from the Middle East. The Russians are already established in Syria and in Lebanon. [Word indistinct] negotiating and giving more time, that means giving it time that the Russians will have more and more influence inside the Middle East.

I would like to tell you as a brother that I know the Syrians very well and I know the Syrians. They are making benefit from all sides, and especially from the American side, making benefit from this mediation to have more money in blackmailing [word indistinct] the rich Arabic countries. They are (?using) real blackmail. This time they are using (?these) problems to have more money. They began with Jordan, then Zahlah and now the contact lines in Beirut, and (?before) the missiles problem.

For that, I would like to tell you do not trust too much what the Syrians are telling you, because they give you nice words but they act differently. So, I know them and I know the regime. It is impossible to force the Syrians to cut their relations with the Russians because the 'Alawite regime is very (?much in need) of external support, and he has this support from the Russians, from the communists, and he will not, the regime will not, take a stand to cut its relations with the Russians for, I do not know, any reason or anything else, because their future will be in the balance if they will cut their relations. Therefore, I would like you not to believe what they are telling; and don't think that ever they will come to join the Camp David negotiations and the Camp David peace and agreement. And you have to remember that the main obstacle (?in the way) of this peace is the Syrian presence and the Syrian (?association) in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon.

So, you have to find a way not only to solve the missiles problem--you have to find a way how to force the Syrians to leave Lebanon. I think there is only one way--to destroy the Syrian Army in Lebanon. [Words indistinct] afterwards what will happen? There will be change of regime in Syria. There will be coup d'etat against Hafiz al-Asad and the 'Alawite regime, and the ones who will take over. I am sure they will join the peace because they will be in a [word indistinct] and they will cut their relations with the Russians and they will join the peace willingly. By this we can win Syria to our side, and there is no other way than that. And I hope that it will not be too late.

So all your efforts should be concentrated on that direction, the direction of getting rid of the Syrians in Lebanon. Also, the PLO and the terrorists should be leaving Lebanon with the Syrians, if not peacefully they should be leaving by force, and the (?world afterwards will be enriched) and especially the Middle East. We do not want to see our Lebanon given to the Syrians, afterwards falling in the hands of the Russians. We do not want to see military bases of the Russians established in Lebanon, or military harbors for the Russians in Lebanon. We do not want that and you have got to help us because what we are doing is not only for our benefit but also for the benefit of all the free countries and especially the United States of America. And I hope you all success in this matter.

I would like to talk about another point. On Friday there was aircraft attack against PLO targets in the area of Harbush [words indistinct]. It happened at (?1100) in the moment that, by coincidence, at 1345 PM I was listening to the news on radio Lebanon, the official radio Lebanon. They cut their news and they said we got this news coming from the French news agency in Tel Aviv saying that there was an Israeli aircraft attack against PLO positions and guns north and south of the Al-Litani River. And after this we heard that Lebanon complained to the Security Council against these aircraft attacks. What's that prove? [Words indistinct] that Lebanon, or the Lebanese authority has no presence in the area where there was aircraft attack. If they, this authority would have any presence, the official radio would not wait to get the news from the French news agency in Tel Aviv. They would get the news from their own sources. But unfortunately they have no sources, they have no presence there and I wonder how the Security Council still accepting this kind of protest or anything else, or any complaint by the name of Lebanon saying that there was attempt against the Lebanese [word indisdinct].

I am telling them that is the truth and you can check it. I am sure many people listened to the same news as I already told you. So it is time to understand the real problem of Lebanon. The major part of Lebanon, especially the south, they are under occupation, terrorist occupation and Syrian occupation. No sign of the Lebanese sovereignty or authority. For that the world should help us on building our forces and on liberating our country. The free countries should back us politically and financially and militarily. Any kind of help is not good and helpful for us personally, but it is helpful for all the free countries. Thank you very much.

Address to Lebanese People

NC131212 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Jul 81

[Address "to the Lebanese people" by Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of free Lebanon, from the Voice of Hope studio--live or recorded]

[Text] Brother Lebanese, I apologize that I was unable to speak to you yesterday because I had some private business--it was not private; it was for the public interest, but business that prevented me from coming here to speak to you.

Today we have a number of points we want to talk to you about. We shall begin with the story of the complaint of the Lebanese Government against the Israeli raid on the Palestinian terrorist targets in the south and in Ad-Damur.

Before I start I want to tell you this story of what took place. Last Friday I turned the radio on at 1330 to listen to the news of the official Beirut radio. The news was completely routine. Nothing was mentioned in the news headlines about the Israeli raid. However, at about 1345, the announcer interrupted the news to say: We have just received the following report by AFP from Tel Aviv that Israeli aircraft attacked Palestinian rocket and artillery batteries north and south of the Al-Litani River. The raid took place at 1100 that day, and all the news agencies and radios reported it. Had it not been for the AFP dispatch from Tel Aviv, the Lebanese radio would not have reported this news at 1345. Then we heard that Lebanon is to submit a complaint. What is the moral of this story? If the Lebanese authority had had a presence in the areas which came under attack, the Lebanese authority would have known directly about the attack and it would not have waited to hear the news from AFP from Tel Aviv. This is the best proof that the area is not under Lebanese authority. I am astonished at how the Lebanese authority, with total insolence, can then submit a complaint that there was an aggression against Lebanese sovereignty in the south. Enough clowning and enough attempts to try to deceive the world and oneself. [Words indistinct] to announce or to inform the Security Council that there was a raid in these specific areas. But stop deceiving the Lebanese and world public opinion.

On the occasion of the Israeli raids last Friday and yesterday we must again ask the terrorists: Do you remember how many times I have told you that Syria does not care about you and is trading with you and your blood? Syria's aim is to destroy you. Syria's claim that it is there to protect the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon is just empty words. Why don't you ask yourselves this question: Where is the Syrian intervention? Where is the Syrian protection of the Palestinians? I do not want to remind you of past actions against you. I will only remind you of the two recent incidents. How many times have Hafiz al-Asad, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and others said that Syria's presence in Lebanon is to protect the Palestinian revolution? Anyhow, if your leaders are not asking, they are deceiving you. This is certain.

Your leaders are living at the expense of your blood. They are plotting with the 'Alawite regime against you. Ask yourselves, then you will find out that your presence in the south is just for a period, until you are finally eliminated. From a humanitarian point of view, I advise you to ask yourselves this question, and then you will find the answer and make the decision on what to do. I think that the decision is not so difficult. Ask yourselves what you have achieved in the south and elsewhere from 1969 until now. Have you liberated Israel? What have you liberated of Israel? Nothing. You fired a few Katyushas. Have the Israeli people [words indistinct] and Israel has surrendered? You have achieved practically nothing, and you will achieve nothing. Your presence in the south is for the sake of trading with your lives. Your leaders are using you and your blood as a commodity for trade. Syria is doing the same with you and your leaders. Everyone is growing at the expense of the other.

You must realize that you are to weak too weak to respond or retaliate against Israel. You fired two rockets last Friday after the raid. The result was that you got it back tenfold yesterday. You lost [words indistinct] killed and wounded, in addition to other material losses, including an arms and ammunition plant, and so forth. Your morale has certainly dropped low.

Gentlemen, from a humanitarian standpoint, and in view of your obvious weakness, in view of the imbalance in the forces and in view of the fact that you are alone, I advise you, after asking yourselves these questions and satisfying yourselves with the answers, to throw down your weapons and leave not only the south but all of Lebanon.

This would be the best thing for the sake of humanity, Lebanon, its soldiers and yourselves This is my advice, because I am aware that your leaders are not giving you any advice. [words indistinct] I am giving you this advice despite the fact that you are my enemies--I am giving my advice for the sake of God and humanity. You might be saying: By God, this man is talking conscientiously about facts, justice and logic.

Now then, about 2 days ago we heard His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat reiterating his call to the Palestinians to negotiate with Israel in Al-'Arish. We appreciate His Excellency President as-Sadat's efforts to achieve peace. However, we wish to note once again that if he can bask in peace and bring peace and prosperity, security and tranquillity to his country, it is only because he is a man of logic. But when he talks logic to the Arabians and the Palestinians he will not cut much ice. He surely cannot talk logic to illogical people who possess fossilized and retarded minds. Therefore, my brotherly advice to His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat is not to wear himself down with the Palestinian problem or any other problem related to the Arabians. Let them wallow in their backwardness. Perhaps God will guide them in the future [words indistinct]; perhaps God will open their minds and guide them to a solution that will satisfy them.

Then we have the Syrian stance in Lebanon. Perhaps they will convene the quadripartite committee which is being supported by Mr Philip Habib [passage indistinct]. What's important is that they asked the Phalangists [words indistinct] despite the fact that they have no right to ask such a thing, because only the independent legal authority--if it exists--has the right to do so. Such an authority does not exist at present. Therefore, neither the Syrians nor the Kuwaitis nor the Saudis nor the Libyans nor anyone else has the right to ask the Lebanese [words indistinct].

Despite this, the Phalangists prepared a statement and gave it to postman Mr Ilyas Sarkis so that he can hand it to 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He delivered it through High Commissioner Sami al-Khatib. If Syria had any intention to solve the problem it would have agreed to convene the quadripartite committee earlier, as requested by Mr Sarkis. However, [words indistinct] Syria started to blow its trumpet. It started to threaten by using force and asserting that there will be no solution except by exterminating the Phalangists, and so on and so forth. In short, only a military solution is feasible. [words indistinct]

It aims at leading to the failure of the quadripartite committee's efforts. What does this mean? It means that Syria is the only obstacle standing between the Lebanese and preventing their unity. Syria is working to consolidate the partitioning of Lebanon. By this act, Syria is pushing the Lebanese Front into proclaiming a Christian state, because Syria has an interest in this. The sectarian rule in Syria aims at creating a sectarian rule in Lebanon in order to weaken the others. [words indistinct]

We said this long ago, namely: Syria aims at annexing Lebanon, and in case it does not succeed in doing so it will push a certain sect of the Lebanese into proclaiming a racist state. Syria would, of course, control the remaining parts while retaining the right to attack these Lebanese sects. If it did not succeed militarily and if the public opinion rebels against it--as happened in Zahlah--[words indistinct] it would then annex all of Lebanon. If circumstances do not allow this, it would leave a destroyed [word indistinct] and a sect of Lebanese who would pave the way for the occupation [words indistinct] to establish a racist state. Why? So that they would remain dependent on the 'Alawite regime. If circumstances make all of the above untenable, it might establish an 'Alawite state [words indistinct]. Therefore, the Lebanese must be aware of Syria's aims in Lebanon. They must be aware of the peril embodied by the Syrian presence in Lebanon. [words indistinct]

We are saying to Syria that we will never accept any partition of Lebanon. We will only accept a complete Lebanon with all its borders--a united Lebanon, a democratic Lebanon, a free Lebanon, an independent Lebanon. We do not consider ourselves at variance with any Lebanese citizen. The enemy is the alien who is stationed in Lebanon and who constitutes a burden on the chest of the Lebanese. It is the Syrians and the Palestinians and the aliens who have come to fight within the ranks of the [words indistinct]. We are aware that every Lebanese, every official, militia leader, party leader or others [word indistinct] the Syrian and those who are with them and the terrorists. We know they are helpless. This is the only thing they can do. [words indistinct] Hence, we do not consider ourselves at variance with any Lebanese no matter where he is, no matter his concepts, creed or religion. Therefore, let Syria understand and let those who support Syria understand that we are against partition. We, as Christians, do not want a Christian state. We only believe in a unified Lebanon--as I have just mentioned--which will include all the Lebanese. Let the Lebanese who are living under the yoke of occupation be aware of the peril [words indistinct]. Let them interact and work against this terrifying 'Alawite plan which aims at eliminating the Lebanese nationalism. [passage indistinct]

There can be no doubt that Shaykh Qabalan has realized what is happening. [words indistinct] It is impossible to remain silent in view of what is happening. Therefore, he said [passage indistinct] This is our aim. The principle [words indistinct] so that the Lebanese would know that there is a danger of evacuation [words indistinct]. We do not want to go live abroad, we want to live with each other like we are living in free Lebanon. Thus, we want to return and live with all the Lebanese wherever they are, because we have never closed our hearts to any Lebanese whether he is a citizen of An-Nabatiyah, Tyre, Az-Zahrani, Sidon, Tripoli or Beirut. The Lebanese are called upon to make a move. It is true that they are in a difficult situation, but in order to rescue Lebanon we have to make sacrifices. The French resistance against the Germans [words indistinct], from the Palestinian terrorists but they did resist. [Passage indistinct] so that the occupier would feel that he is persona non grata and, thus, his morale would go down [passage indistinct]

We have heard that acts of aggression are being committed against the youth of Zahlah, who are being murdered and [words indistinct]. Therefore, the best solution for Zahlah is [words indistinct]. It is not important to merely halt the military actions. What is important is to halt the acts of aggression, the vendettas, the repressions and the liquidation of the citizens of Zahlah. These inhabitants must be allowed to tend their fields and move around freely.

Long ago we said that anyone who cannot live in his town, who is being harrassed in his town, is welcome to come to our area, whether he comes from Zahlah, [words indistinct], Ad-Damur or anywhere else. We will say: Welcome. Free Lebanon is [word indistinct] because we are Lebanese.

One little word now to our free Lebanese brothers: We say that nowadays some violations are inevitable--whether these refer to security violations or transgressions against law and order. Therefore, we say to everyone that our aim is to bring about social justice for all the citizens. This social justice is one of our most important principles: We must all believe in and work for it. [Words indistinct] to give all the people their own rights.

Because of this, I instructed the competent organs to combat all transgressions aimed against the implementation of social justice. I requested that whomever is subjected to disciplinary measures or otherwise not to appeal to me in this respect, but appeal to the competent organs, because I won't interfere [words indistinct]. I hope that no one will make any transgressions and that everyone will keep his limits.

Thank God, we do not have as many problems in southern Lebanon as there are in other places [words indistinct]. Despite the fact that these are minor problems, we still do not want them to happen, because we are striving for perfection and because we want to build an integrated society, an advanced society in the fullest sense of the word. This is our main goal.

I ask everyone to go along with us in this respect and in this aim.

Also, we must address a word to the soldiers of the Lebanese Army: [Word indistinct] since Syria is presently on Lebanon's soil, this means it will never allow the establishment of a Lebanese Army. It will only allow the formation of aggregations which are an army in name only. It will never allow this army to play an active role in Lebanon's service. Therefore, I call on every officer and soldier who really wishes to serve Lebanon to join free Lebanon. Long live free Lebanon and its sovereignty.

15 Jul Comments

NC150911 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Maj Haddad commented on current topical issues as follows:

1. We strongly support the Israeli Air Force raids on the saboteurs' positions in the south and throughout Lebanon, because this not only serves our interests but the interests of all the Lebanese people. The raids also bring a Lebanese solution closer, ensuring the withdrawal of the saboteurs from the south and consequently from all Lebanon, so that the Lebanese Army can replace them.

2. After the 'Alawite regime's conspiratorial role against the entity and existence of the saboteurs has been uncovered, it again began to camouflage facts to deceive the saboteurs: Threatening two pilots with liquidation should they refuse, they were sent to confront the Israeli aircraft. One plane fell like a butterfly as soon as it appeared. The other pilot bailed out, fled and returned safely. I ask Hafiz al-Asad to send his own eagles next time and not dispatch people they hate so as to get rid of them.

3. We call on the Muslim Brotherhood members operating in Syria, who want to increase their knowledge of explosives and ways of assembling and detonating them, to listen to the Voice of Palestine radio, because it gives detailed lessons on this subject.

4. Saboteur No 2, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], has said that 1982 has been specified as the year of liberation. I reassure him and ask him not to busy himself too much with this issue, because by 1982 not one single saboteur will be alive. The problem will be solved in this way and saboteur Abu Iyad will have fulfilled his promise.

SPOKESMAN SAYS PLANE HIT IN 14 JUL DOGFIGHT

JN141842 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1833 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] A military spokesman has announced the following:

At 1610 this afternoon, 14 July 1981, squadrons of enemy warplanes bombed the Palestinian camps in the areas of Sidon, An-Na'imah, Ad-Damur and Al-'Ayshiyah. Our planes confronted the enemy planes and engaged them in an air battle. One of our planes was hit; the rest of them returned safely to base.

ASH-SHAR' INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON SITUATION

PM141020 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Jul 81 pp 42-43

[Interview given to Huda al-Murr by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' in Damascus--date not given]

[Text] [Question] The Syrian stand on the issue of the missiles in Lebanon has been strong and firm. What are the bases of this stand?

[Answer] First and foremost, the Syrian stand has embodied what has been uppermost in the hearts and minds of the people. By this I mean not only the Syrian people but the entire Arab people. Following As-Sadat's capitulation, Israel began to act like a mythical beast devouring the Arab wills in order to gradually devour the land and the resources, because 3 million Israelis, however strong and mighty, are incapable of swallowing the 150 million Arabs unless they first divest the Arabs of their will, as the Israelis have done to As-Sadat's Egypt. Suffice it for me to mention here an incident to prove how far Israel has gone in divesting Egypt of its will. During the Egyptian-Israeli treaty-signing ceremony on the White House lawn 3 years ago, Begin asked As-Sadat to show the speech he was to deliver some time later. As-Sadat gave the speech to Begin who read it, tore off a whole page dealing with the Palestinians and Jerusalem and then handed it back to As-Sadat. As-Sadat then read the speech to the Americans and the Israelis. As for the page related to the Palestinians and Jerusalem, As-Sadat left it torn up in Begin's hand. In such a situation, of what value is regaining Sinai when the whole of Egypt has lost its will? Begin is now demanding that we remove our missiles from Lebanon and from our territories adjacent to Lebanon. The primary aim is to divest us of our will. This is impossible.

[Question] Can we say that, through its strong stand, Syria has achieved the strategic balance sought since As-Sadat abandoned the Arab ranks to join the enemy's position?

[Answer] No, but by this stand we have laid the cornerstone for the establishment of strategic balance. So far, we have succeeded in preventing the collapse of the Arab wills--I am not saying the one Arab will because, had there been a unified Arab will in confronting the common Zionist enemy, we would have made enormous progress in the process of achieving strategic balance.

[Question] Is Syria satisfied with the Tunis resolutions and are these resolutions sufficient for tackling the coming phase?

[Answer] Yes, we are satisfied with the Tunis resolutions. The Syrian working paper which was presented in Tunis by chief Syrian delegate 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was unanimously approved and constituted the Tunis resolutions. We believe that, if these resolutions are implemented fully, they will be adequate for confronting the current phase during which the Israeli challenge has reached its peak. On the other hand, one must not get the impression that the Tunis resolutions have beer adopted to deal with all the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in which case they would not be sufficient, naturally.

[Question] Do you believe that the Arab states which have expressed their readiness to help would, in the event of a war, actually participate beside Syria?

[Answer] We are confident that the Arab states which have shown enough readiness to support us would fight with us if war were to break out. We believe also that the Arab states which have not so far shown readiness to support us would be compelled to participate in the battle under pressure of the popular fury in their countries.

[Question] Is it to be understood that the support and assurances given to Syria recently are not sufficient for restoring Arab solidarity and surmounting the pervasive differences after the Amman summit, or have they contributed only to freezing the previous differences?

[Answer] Some have deliberately misunderstood the Syrian stance regarding the Amman summit. Scratching a wound does not help it to heal. However, the i's must be dotted in such a fateful issue as Arab solidarity. For 11 years now, we in Syria have been raising the slogan of Arab solidarity. It is our conviction that Arab solidarity consolidates the confrontation with the Zionist enemy in defense of the central Arab issue--the Palestinian cause. No enemy other than the Zionist enemy and no issue other than the Palestinian issue can, from a realistic and principled standpoint, be a better cause for Arab unanimity and, consequently, Arab solidarity. Moreover, any attempt by some people to present an enemy other than Israel and a cause other than the Palestinian cause will constitute a destructive and divisive factor not only with regard to Arab solidarity but also with regard to national solidarity within the country concerned, causing two losses: One on the pan-Arab level and another on the national level. Irrespective of the stance adopted by this or that Arab state, all the attempts made so far to achieve Arab solidarity against the so-called Soviet threat or the Persian enemy have been and will be doomed, especially because the Arab citizen is aware that these two alleged enemies support the central Arab issue--the Palestinian cause.

[Question] Do you believe in dialogue with America, and are you pleased with its policy?

[Answer] We believe in dialogue with America. Our reception of Philip Habib is the best proof of this. However, we are not pleased with U.S. policy. American officials at the highest levels have been siding openly with Israel. President Reagan began his term in office by legitimizing the Israeli settlements and characterizing the PLO as terrorists. Some of his aides have stated that Israel has the right to pursue the Palestinians inside Lebanon. Could there be a brighter or more encouraging green light for Israel to kill and displace as it wants in Lebanon and the West Bank? Very briefly, I say that the Americans are treating the Arab mind with disdain. When we tell them that the Israelis are occupying our land and violating our rights, the Americans answer by saying that they are sorry that they cannot exert pressure on the Israelis and use as an excuse the Jews' strength, influence and infiltration of Congress, and so forth. When we ask them, especially after they signed the Camp David agreements, why they insist on separate and partial solutions and do not encourage the Soviets and the Europeans to participate in a comprehensive solution, they answer by saying: Why should we allow them as long as we Americans are the only party capable of bringing pressure to bear on Israel? This is strange logic. We believe that the Americans must rid themselves of this contradiction and that we Arabs must face them with their international and moral responsibilities before it is too late.

[Question] How do you assess the stance of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom regarding the missiles crisis?

[Answer] Saudi Arabia has fully supported our stance. We have received several messages from King Khalid emphasizing that Saudi Arabia would support us with all its capabilities should we be subjected to any Israeli aggression. Consultations between the Saudis and us are continuing. All of us are the target of the Israeli threat. Our joint confrontation of this threat is a sacred duty dictated by the Arab nation's sublime interests.

[Question] What do you believe are the chances of a Syrian-Israeli war?

[Answer] Syria has tremendous Soviet support, especially in that the Soviets will certainly not allow Syria to be defeated militarily. Syria has also gained Arab support, as I have said earlier. The greater credit goes to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, which has pressed America to exert pressure on Israel. We in turn made it clear to American envoy Philip Habib that any war with Israel would be deemed to result from an American decision. The internal disagreements in Israel have made Begin take the opposition into account. Therefore, the likelihood of a war breaking out is now much less than it was a month ago. But it is a possibility. The possibility of war still exists, especially because Begin is reckless and crazy.

[Question] What about Habib's current tour? On what basis has the American envoy returned to the area?

[Answer] We explained our stance to Habib after he put the Israeli terms to us in diplomatic form.

[Question] And what was your answer?

[Answer] President al-Asad asked Habib: "What relationship does Israel have with the state of Lebanon? And on what basis does Israel demand and tell a sovereign and independent state this is allowed and this is not allowed?"

[Question] At the start of the Lebanese war, your relationship with the "Lebanese Front" was good. What made you change your attitude to it?

[Answer] We are not a party in Lebanon. Had we been a party to the problem, we would have acted differently. We do not support one group against another. Our task has been and still is to prevent sectarian fighting and civil war, nothing more and nothing less.

[Question] But in 1976 understanding dominated your relationship with the front.

[Answer] Our relations with the front were good when it was headed by Sulayman Franjiyah. Franjiyah is a gallant Arab and is against cooperation with Israel. When Sulayman Franjiyah left the front and Al-Jumayyil took over, our treatment of the front changed. Everybody is aware of Al-Jumayyil's relationship with Israel.

[Question] From your statement we understand that there is a deadlock with the front?

[Answer] Arab efforts are being exerted to restore the front to the Arab ranks and to make it sever its relationship with Israel.

[Question] What are the bases of these Arab efforts?

[Answer] Recently, the members of the front realized that Israel wants to use them rather than act for their sake. Israel wants the "Lebanese Front" to fight on its behalf. Some front members have discovered this, though belatedly, whereas others have not yet discovered Israel's intentions.

[Question] For example?

[Answer] Bashir al-Jumayyil still insists on cooperating with Israel, whereas his brother Amin has sensed the perils of cooperating with the Israeli enemy. A dialogue is underway between us and all the leaderships which do not cooperate with the Israeli enemy.

U.S. HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAELI AIR RAIDS

JN150708 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Jul 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The Israeli Attacks and Washing n's Wishes," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The return of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's envoy Philip Habib coincided with renewed Israeli military aggression against Lebanon and camps of Palestinians, who have been expelled from their homeland and are being subjected to genocide by the Israeli ruler. It is not unwarranted to find a connection between Habib's return and the plan being widely publicized by Western media as well as the resumption of aggressive Israeli operations against Lebanon and the Palestinians and Begin's renewed threats of aggression against Syria and its forces in Lebanon. U.S. encouragement of Israel to carry out aggressive actions in order to put pressure on Syria is not unusual as a preliminary to U.S. proposals and demands.

Before Habib's first visit Washington gave Tel Aviv the green light to explode the security situation in Lebanon and to interfere militarily with the Syrian forces there. The delivery of aircraft to Israel despite all recent Israeli aggressive acts may not be the only encouraging sign given by Washington to Israel to carry out aggression. At the Security Council, Washington protected Israel. Before that, President Reagan strongly defended Israel's attack on the Iraqi reactor, describing Israel as sincere in its conviction that the act was defensive. Reagan also forged the facts pertaining to the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, justifying the Israeli threats by claiming that the Syrian missiles were offensive and that he knew against whom they were directed. However good intentions may be, separating the U.S. will and policy from the aggressive acts being executed by Israel is very difficult.

All previous attempts to pressure, threaten and provoke Syria have failed to affect the Syrian stand. All similar attempts will fail, as will attempts to trap Syria into mitigating the effect of the morale defeat of the rulers of Israel by the firm Syrian stand. Attempts to lure Syria into a battle with location, time and weapons of the enemy's choice will also fail. Syria will implement its pan-Arab decision to confront the aggressive military arrogance in Lebanon according to its will and style, regardless of the sacrifices. Syria will not allow the Lebanese airspace, waters and territories to become an extension of the alleged security requirements of Israel. As President al-Asad declared several times, Syria will unhesitatingly and courageously respond to any Israeli aggression.

With its new aggressive acts, Israel is deliberately heightening tension in the region and renewing the dangers of confrontation, which will damage international relations and endanger peace in the Middle East and elsewhere. Israel's aggressive acts basically refute the allegations of the U.S. administration that the danger to the region comes from the USSR rather than Israel, and that regional interests require that the Arabs and Israel unite against the Soviet danger. Israel's aggressive acts affirm that the enemy of all Arabs, is the racist, Zionist entity, which serves the strategic objectives of U.S. imperialism.

The new Israeli acts of aggression give new responsibilities to the Arab quarters that have not yet made a decision to put their energies on the real battlefields. The United States is directly responsible for these renewed acts of Israeli aggression.

TISHRIN concludes: It is useful for Washington to remember that it has interests which it is eager to preserve in the region, and that if revenge or fire break out these interests will not be spared. As the saying goes, oil is also a flammable substance.

BEGIN ACCEPTS TASK OF FORMING GOVERNMENT

TA151018 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0955 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Text] A few minutes ago Prime Minister Menahem Begin ended his meeting with President Yitzhaq Navon. Correspondent Gil'ad Mishori reports from the presidential residence:

[Mishori] The president and the prime minister left Yitzhaq Navon's office following a 45-minute talk. The president again reported to the press that he had entrusted Menahem Begin with the task of forming the next government. Afterward, the prime minister made his own announcement. Let us hear it:

[Begin recording] [Begin] I am given 3 days to decide whether or not to accept this task, according to the basic law. I am hereby giving up this right. I hereby inform the honorable president and the public that I accept the task the honorable president was so kind to entrust me with. I will try my best to fulfill my duty and form a government in the time span stipulated by the basic law on the government, that is, within 21 days. I hope to be able to complete this task before then. However, it is obvious that it is necessary to overcome various difficulties still pending. I want to be able to present the government before the Knesset next Monday [20 July], that is, if the Knesset convenes next Monday and it elects the speaker and the Knesset members are sworn in, I hope and I would like to present the government the next Monday [27 July]. [end recording]

[Mishori] Well, the prime minister wants to present his government to the Knesset in less than 2 weeks, in contrast to hopes expressed by members of the Likud last night that the government would be presented this coming Tuesday [21 July]. According to him, the prime minister will meet tomorrow with the National Religious Party [NRP] representatives, on Friday he will meet with the representatives of Agudat Yisra'el and on Sunday he will confer with the representatives of Tami in order to open official negotiations on the formation of the coalition. Referring to a national unity government, the prime minister said he had received three negative replies from Mr Peres through various personalities. If Shim'on Peres were to announce that he would be ready to begin negotiations on the establishment of a national unity government, I would immediately make a positive response, the prime minister said. Mr Begin added that the NRP had announced that it must receive the religious affairs portfolio. Begin said that Mr Abu-Hatzera has not yet stated that he was giving up the religious affairs portfolio. However, the prime minister said, I hope the issue will be settled. I offered Abu-Hatzera another portfolio, a very serious portfolio. I hope that he will accept it.

SYRIAN FIGHTER PLANE DOWNED OVER LEBANON 14 JUL

TA141713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] In a dogfight today air force fighters downed a Syrian fighter in Lebanese airspace. Military correspondent Shmu'el Ta' is here in the studio:

Today air force planes again set out to attack terrorist bases in Lebanon. The bases which were chosen as objectives were in the coastal sector north of Sidon and northeast of An-Nabatiyah. They were being used as training bases and bases from which terrorists set out for attacks in Israel. There were ammunition stores and equipment in them. Several of the bases were located in wooded territories, in the country, far away from settlement sites. During the attack, Syrian fighters approached the area and tried to interfere with the air force planes' action. A dogfight developed and within a short time a Syrian fighter was downed. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 14 July adds: "Reports from Lebanon say that the Syrian plane that was downed was a MiG-23. Its pilot was killed. The crash took place near the village of (Walus), about 45 km south of Beirut."] Our aircraft returned safely to their base. As for the objectives, the pilots reported precise hits. The last Syrian plane downed in Lebanon, by the way, was a MiG downed on 13 February east of Beirut.

Begin Remarks

TA142109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said this evening that the Syrian planes tried twice to interfere with our planes in their action in Lebanon. The first time, the Syrian pilots became confused and retreated and the second time, when they interfered with our forces, we succeeded in downing one of them. The prime minister said this at a reception held by the French ambassador to mark his country's national holiday, 14 July. Mr Begin said that France's national holiday, 14 July, was a great holiday, one of freedom for all freedom-loving nations in the world. We also fought for our freedom, Menahem Begin said.

Tzipori Comments

TA150630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Jul 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has expressed the hope that the Syrians received the message sent by Israel yesterday when it downed a Syrian plane as well as the warning not to intervene in Israel's war against the terrorists. Mr Tzipori told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the Syrians had previously not taken Israel's warning seriously that it would not let the terrorists organize in Lebanon and that the skies of that country must remain open to the operations of the air force. Thus, the Syrians tried to disrupt the air force's operation yesterday but, nevertheless, Israel collected the toll.

Mr Tzipori added that the terrorists have in the last few months been receiving a massive flow of high-quality weapons from Libya, the Soviet Union and Syria. The reference is to multibarreled Katyusha launchers, tanks and long-range artillery. This indicates an escalation in the terrorists' level of preparedness.

ISRAEL RIDICULES LIBYAN REPORT ON INVASION

TA131441 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Jul 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, will be asked to make clear to the Reagan administration Israel's detailed position on the autonomy issue before the President's meeting with Egypt's As-Sadat. Israel will also request that the U.S. administration appoint its representative for the autonomy talks, a position that has been vacant since the end of President Carter's term.

The ministerial autonomy team convened yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr Burg and with the participation of the prime minister to discuss ways for resuming the talks. The assessment is that the autonomy issue will feature prominently in the summit conferences expected in the 3 coming months: Begin-As-Sadat in Alexandria, As-Sadat-Reagan in Washington and Begin-Reagan in Washington.

The assessment in Jerusalem is that the Reagan administration has not yet gone into the autonomy issue and is not adept in the minute details and nuances of the Israeli position. Therefore, Prime Minister Begin asked Dr Burg to convene the ministerial team and prepare a working paper specifying the Israeli stance.

It is estimated in Jerusalem that Egypt, which suspended the talks until after the elections in Israel, is now prepared to renew them and complete them by the end of the year.

The decision to entrust the handling of the issue to the embassy in Washington stems from the fact that the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, is on a long vacation as well as from the desire to express the confidence the government places in Ambassador 'Evron.

Both Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Shamir have rejected rumors that the intention is to replace 'Evron shortly.

AWACS DEAL ACCEPTED IF PLANES OPERATED BY U.S.

TA141035 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jul 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday said Israel would not object to the U.S. delivery of another four AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia on the condition that these aircraft--as well as the other four AWACS already owned by Saudi Arabia--are exclusively operated by U.S. teams which would be responsible for the intelligence data collected by these sophisticated aircraft.

Mr Begin emphasized that Israel would continue to categorically oppose the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia which would be opeated by Saudi teams.

Speaking to journalists, Begin noted that Saudi Arabia would be able to hand over aerial photographs and valuable intelligence data to Israel's enemies--Syria, Jordan and Iraq--and the United States would not be able to prevent it.

AIR FORCE TO RECEIVE TWO NEW NEGEV BASES

TA141233 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The airports directorate will tomorrow hand over to the air force the new Ramon and 'Uvda air bases in the Negev. This is reported by our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal. These new bases replace the 'Ezyon and Etam airfields in the Sinai. They will be operational within a short period of time. The building of the residential units and the permanent installations will be completed when the Sinai is evacuated in 9 months.

PERES LEAVES FOR SOCIALIST MEETING IN BONN

TA141627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Shim'on Peres left this afternoon for Bonn to attend the congress of the Socialist International. The congress is to open tomorrow.

ALGERIA

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ENDS VISIT 14 JUL

JN141942 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus at 1600 today at the end of visits to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. During these two visits, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad had talks with Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the latest developments in the Arab arena, the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation and the effective means to confront it.

President Chadli Bendjedid arrived at Ash-Sha'b Palace at 1100 today. A closed meeting was held between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Chadli Bendjedid, this ending the Syrian-Algerian talks. After this, President Bendjedid accompanied His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in an official motorcade to the airport.

During a short rest at the airport, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad made the following statement:

[Begin videotape] We have come to exchange viewpoints with our brother, President Chedli Bendjedid, on various issues of interest to our Arab nation, particularly the discussion of what is necessary to confront the fierce imperialist onslaught which has us and our basic causes in this region as its target. I would like to stress that as a result of these meetings I leave Algeria with feelings of happiness and complete satisfaction. I believe that my brother President Chadli Bendjedid shares these feelings with me.

Our viewpoints were in agreement on the topics discussed. We both believe that we have discussed important matters and that the agreement in viewpoints between us was necessary and important to us in the two countries, to the parties of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and to our Arab nation.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate greetings to my brother President Chadli Bendjedid and to also greet our Arab people in Algeria. Thank you. [end videotape]

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA INTERVIEWED ON MAURITANIA, SAHARA ISSUES

PM131528 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 30 Jun 81 pp 1, 5

[Mustapha Sehimi "exclusive" interview with Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta: "What Interests Us Is Good-Neighbor, Fraternal Relations"--date and place not given]

[Text] LE MATIN: The forthcoming normalization of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Mauritania has just been announced following the meeting between His Majesty Hassan II and Mauritanian President Ould Haydala in At-Ta'if in His Majesty King Khalid's presence. What do you think is the significance of this act?

M'hamed Boucetta: In my view this is a particularly important question, especially at this time--in other words, immediately after the Nairobi summit, where the positions of each party on the Sahara affair were clearly explained. Morocco, in particular, dotted all its i's to make people understand--as his majesty the king had occasion to do--that this is chiefly a question concerning our territorial integrity and our legitimate rights.

The rest is above all a matter of procedures which people wanted in order to make sure that that is indeed the case.

For years some people have been trying to create artificial situations and even situations portraying Morocco as a country which does not respect settlements or the provisions of charters. The same people tried to portray Morocco as the adversary to be fought by every possible means.

This situation had the effect, for instance, of prompting Mauritania to say that Morocco had attacked its sovereignty or had interfered in its internal affairs. We gave the necessary explanations--notably within the Arab League, to which the matter had been submitted--because discussions were given [as published] to some fraternal countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq. These countries had been asked by Mauritania to secure a clarification of those questions.

Saudi Arabia's Role

I must say that Saudi Arabia played a crucial role in this rapprochement, with the main aim of strengthening inter-Arab and Islamic solidarity as it does in other spheres and other circumstances and among other Arab countries. Morocco must take this opportunity to express its gratitude and recognition to the Saudi authorities for the efforts they made in this matter.

Therefore, following the meeting between His Majesty Hassan II and the Mauritanian president in the presence of His Majesty King Khalid, it was decided that an agreement should be signed expressing the fundamental ideas which we uphold.

LE MATIN: Could you give us some details on your view of relations between the two countries?

M'hamed Boucetta: For us the aim is to give Mauritania's neutrality--that avowed neutrality --its real significance. This real neutrality should rule out the possibility of allowing attacks on our country to be launched from Mauritanian territory: That is fundamental. Furthermore, it was a good thing for each of us--and especially we Moroccans--to specify that we do not intend to interfere in Mauritanian affairs or to attack its sovereignty. Quite the reverse: What we have always sought is good cooperation with the Mauritanian people, knowing that we shared a common destiny and that what interests us is good-neighbor and even fraternal relations.

Furthermore, with regard to that agreement, practical provisions have been made to ensure that there is regular consultation in the presence of our Saudi friends. In this connection a tripartite committee has been set up, comprising the three countries' foreign ministers, to bring about and facilitate consultation in order to eliminate anything likely to hinder good Moroccan-Mauritanian relations. It was decided, therefore, that diplomatic relations between the two countries be restored as soon as possible, and for our part we will certainly do that very soon.

I would like to add a final remark on the general context in which this agreement should be placed. It is primarily to enable all our friends, especially our Afghan friends, to understand that Morocco is anxious to have good relations with its neighbors. Whatever the balance of power it is good relations which matter for us and nothing else. I am convinced that this will make it possible to thwart the maneuver to isolate Morocco.

His Majesty Hassan II's Militant Presence

LE MATIN: His Majesty Hassan II has just returned to Morocco after taking part in the 18th OAU summit. What is your initial assessment of that meeting?

M'hamed Boucetta: It is an important meeting. First, because there was virtually record participation, since 31 heads of state were present.

I must say, without modesty, that His Majesty Hassan II's presence at the head of the Moroccan delegation was like a guiding light for this summit. Indeed, it raised the meeting to a level which we are unfortunately beginning to lose in African summits. His presence was not merely symbolic: It was a militant presence--that of a leader anxious first and foremost to make Africa aware of its responsibility and its duty and the fact that it has a rightful place in the community of nations. This attitude turns its back on certain polemics which merely serve to reduce respect for Africa.

I think that it is mainly in the moral sphere that Africa's reputation has been restored in its organization. I had personally attended several African summits before I was given responsibility for the Foreign Affairs Department, but this is the first summit at which you could see that the level of participation and debate had been raised. Some morality should be preserved in inter-African relations.

As regards the Sahara problem, which is of special interest to our public opinion, I think that this is a considerable turning point, to cite the expression used by the French minister of foreign affairs. Indeed, Morocco's initiative showed Morocco in its true light--in other words, a country wrongly or erroneously seen as inflexible or in opposition of conflict with Africa was seen in its true light as of then. Morocco, after having its rights recalled, wishes, in turn, to remind Africa that there is another duty: That its rights be reviewed from the angle which Africa wishes. Morocco is quite prepared for Africa to see the truth. That is the turning point, and the rest is a matter of procedures. As regards the referendum or its means of application, the essential thing is to say that we are prepared to cooperate with Africa to enable it to truly realize that our Saharan provinces are Moroccan. If Africa wishes to verify that situation it can do so on whatever conditions it wishes.

We also recalled--and this was very clear in His Majesty Hassan II's second speech--that Morocco's legitimate historical rights are at stake and that we are determined to reply with the appropriate measures to anything which might undermine our sovereignty.

This summit will open many Africans' eyes. We have already observed the change of attitude in many delegations, especially among the 26 who recognized the so-called Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. No vote was taken, but stances were adopted which enabled us to know each country's position and thus to assess significant changes. I can assert that virtually only around 10 of the 26 countries still have inflexible attitudes. The rest have either categorically changed their position or are moving toward that change.

The response which His Majesty Hassan II's initiative has sparked throughout the world--be it in the Arab community or on other continents--has been greeted with sympathy and admiration. Countries are hailing Morocco's courage in inviting the international community to look at the situation in the Sahara.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI CALLS FOR NAMIBIA CONFERENCE

EA142108 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] President Daniel Arap Moi today appealed to the Western bloc to stop arming the racist regime of Pretoria so that the Namibian liberation struggle could be solved peacefully. He said the liberation of Namibia could not be delayed any longer because the Western superpowers claimed to be protecting their so-called national interests.

President Moi, who is also the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, said the problems of Africa can only be solved if people understood the meaning of independence. He suggested that an international conference on Namibia should be held to resolve the independence dispute of the territory and dispose of the bloody issue as soon as possible. He said Americans and Europeans should know that they are causing delay in Namibia's attainment of independence. He added that what is required is respect for humanity and not guns.

The president was addressing students of Kangaru High School in Embu town before proceeding to Meru on the second day of his tour of Eastern Province. Observing that there were a number of nasty problems he was faced with as chairman of the OAU, President Moi said the success and security of a country depended on its people. He said that was why he felt there was an urgent need to hold a conference on the independence of Namibia so that the problem could be eliminated. The president blasted the South African regime and asked the Pretoria regime to denounce the oppressive system of apartheid if they confessed to be true Christians. He cited the Kenyan example where both whites and Africans lived in harmony, and recommended other countries to emulate this.

Turning to the local scene, his excellency said Kenyans should strive to build a country free of all social evils. He appealed to leaders in the country to teach the youth better ways of living, saying that elders have a duty of counseling the youth and lead them into the future with hope.

TANZANIA

CCM VICE CHAIRMAN AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SOCIALISM

EA121543 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 12 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Vice Chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] Ndugu Aboud Jumbe has warned that Tanzania is ready to go to war, if this becomes inevitable, against capitalists and their puppets whose aim is to sabotage the construction of socialism in the country. Ndugu Jumbe sounded the warning while addressing young people from the city of Dar es Salaam and its environs who held a demonstration in support of the speech by CCM Chairman Mwalimu Nyerere, which he delivered to mark peasants' day this year.

Ndugu Jumbe stressed that Tanzanians have already resolved that the only path they will follow is the construction of socialism, and thus there is no one person or any nation that can divert them from this. He said the decision by Tanzanians to build socialism is their own right and that no one else can make decisions for them.

Ndugu Jumbe explained that there are people who believe that by building socialism in our country, we have declared war against them. If that is so, then we will fight, but we cannot deviate from our principles. He also lashed out at our enemies for trying to distort the truth, integrity and efforts of President Nyerere. He said these enemies had made allegations of corruption and scandals against Mwalimu. He called on all Tanzanians to ask themselves: Why have the enemies decided to use such allegations?

CAMEROON

OUKO, AHIDJO HOLD TALKS ON NIGERIAN BORDER DISPUTE

AB141930 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko has held talks in Yaounde with President Ahmadou Ahidjo on the Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute. He told the press he was also bearer of President Moi's proposals concerning the dispute, adding that he was taking along President Ahidjo's views on the issue. Asked to appraise relations between Cameroon and Kenya, Mr Ouko regretted that commercial and cultural relations between these two countries were minimal. He expressed the hope that the completion of the Mombassa-Lagos trans-African highway would increase the good rapport between the peoples of Kenya and Cameroon.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO FRANCE

AB150947 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Prime Minister Simon Narcisse Bozanga's mission has ended. He and his delegation yesterday evening returned to Bangui following a visit of several days to Paris. The prime minister's mission to France ended on a positive and optimistic note: This augurs well for the relations of cooperation between Bangui and Paris. It will be recalled that the prime minister went to Paris to explain the political, social and economic situation of the CAR to the new socialist authorities. Mr Bozanga conveyed his message during personal contacts with the ministers of cooperation, defense, interior and justice as well as with high-ranking officials of the Elysee Palace and businessmen.

As the prime minister told several newsmen and radio and television reporters, he met in Paris objective, unprejudiced and realistic people who recognize the legitimacy of the elected government in the CAR. The new French authorities refuse to interfere in the CAR's internal affairs. According to the communique issued at the end of the prime minister's visit and signed by French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy for France and Simon Narcisse Bozanga for the CAR, Paris and Bangui agreed to renegotiate the 1962 and November 1975 cooperation agreements in Paris. Bangui will send the relevant dossiers to Paris for detailed study.

Another decision made in Paris is that France undertakes to maintain and continue its assistance to the CAR. [Words indistinct] during the discussions and working sessions, the French and CAR delegations examined problems of economic, financial and military cooperation.

Prime Minister Bozanga also held talks with Mr Robert (?Badinter), a famous French lawyer and minister of justice. [as heard] The discussions centered on Bokassa's movable and landed properties in France. The CAR prime minister appealed to the French minister to do his utmost to ensure that the properties stolen by the former tyrant are returned to the CAR state. [passage indistinct]

The prime minister's discussions with French businessmen achieved very interesting results. For example, Mr (Ducrou) and Mr (Tourantour) announced to the prime minister the forthcoming opening of a cement factory at (Bobasa) in Lobaye district. Funds have already been obtained and work on the project will soon start with the cooperation of a group of Italian businessmen [passage indistinct].

In the framework of the intensification of our relations of cooperation, the prime minister met in Paris with the ambassadors of the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman. To relaunch economic cooperation with these countries, it was envisaged that the prime minister will visit them in November. Economic dossiers on the CAR will be sent to the capitals of the various countries before the prime minister's arrival. [passage indistinct]

FORMER BOKASSA OFFICIALS GIVEN SENTENCES

AB131259 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 13 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Bangui, July 13 (AFP)--A former police officer under Central African Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa was today sentenced to forced labour for life for shooting a schoolboy in a street demonstration in April 1979. Jules Lazare Adopiat was also ordered to pay some 3,500 dollars compensation to the family of his victim.

Last week a former army lieutenant, Noel Bodepoutou, was sentenced to 20 years hard labour and a 40,000 dollar fine for torturing a schoolboy to death, also after the April 1979 street demonstrations.

Alazoula Sentence

AB141755 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, July 14 (AFP)--Central African former Interior Minister Louis Alazoula, a close relation to ousted Emperor Bokassa, was sentenced here today to 15 years hard labour and damages worth 1.5 million CFA francs (about 6,700 dollars). Mr Louis Alazoula faced four main charges, including unlawful detention, death threats and abuse of authority.

The court heard of 67 cases of arbitrary arrests ordered by the former minister between December 1971 and August 1975, including that of the pregnant wife of ex-General Maytin Lingoupou, who was himself executed in 1975.

BENIN

ENVOY SAYS FRANCE TO INCREASE DEVELOPMENT AID

AB142121 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou, today received Mr Pierre Decamps, French ambassador to Benin. The French diplomat, who has just returned from leave, paid an information visit to the head of state. Mr Decamps later spoke to our man, Eugene Kpale, and gave the following explanations:

[Begin recording] President Kerekou first of all sent his wishes of congratulates to me on the occasion of the French national day. I thanked him, on my part, for the very warm message he sent to President Francois Mitterrand. President Kerekou also wanted to see me to discuss the development in our relations at a time when I am just coming from Paris. I have just spent my leave in Paris and, of course, I seized the opportunity to meet the principal officials of the French Government concerning the French policy toward Africa. I was then able to assure President Kerekou about the excellent position of the French Government toward Benin and I am convinced that these relations will continue to strengthen and take an important turn very soon. I am also convinced that Benin will have its share of the increase in aid to international development. The French Government has decided to increase this aid in the near future.

[Question] May we know, Your Excellency, if there was any particular issue which the head of state and you discussed?

[Answer] No, I can't say there was any particular issue. Let us say that we were mainly and especially concerned about establishing an official contact between the Beninese leaders and the new French Government. Nothing specific was decided to this effect, but we shall meet again to discuss these future developments. [end recording]

GUINEA

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR 14 Jul

AB141503 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Comrade Mamady Keita, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of higher education and scientific research, today signed with the Soviet charge d'affaires in Conakry, Comrade Vladimir (Luzorov), a protocol agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation between the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and the Soviet Union. [passage indistinct] Before signing the agreement, which covers the 1981-1982 period, the Soviet charge d'affaires expressed optimism concerning the cooperation between both countries. He declared that the Soviet people have always had for Guinea and its people a particular sentiment of profound respect. [passage indistinct]

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT CONDEMNS WESTERN ECONOMIC EGOISM

PM141547 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 3

[Philippe Decraene interview with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny in Abidjan: "The Third World's Poverty Is the Result of the West's Egoism"--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Does the important change which has just come about in France upset your political friendships in that country?

[Answer] Not at all. I have known Francois Mitterrand for a long time, and also Rene Pleven, Pierre Mendes France and many other French politicians. Since I was a deputy to the Palais-Bourbon for 14 years, I had the opportunity to constantly mix with my colleagues in the National Assembly, the Senate and the Assembly of the French Union, and I have many personal friends in their ranks. I served six successive French Governments as a minister in the Mollet, Bourges-Maunoury, Gaillard, Pflimlin, De Gaulle and Debre cabinets. I know all the French political families, old and new, from the communists to the independents and including the socialists, the Popular Republican Movement, the Radicals and the Rally of the French public.

[Question] Can you explain your attitude toward communists and toward communism?

[Answer] I respect other people's beliefs--religious or political--even when I do not share them. Therefore I respect communists as such because they are convinced people. Although I am not anticommunist, I do not want any communism in my country because it does not correspond to my concept of life.

Communism is atheistic and rejects private ownership. On these two specific points, communists cannot win the Africans' support; they are deeply religious and aspire to own property. It should be noted that despite my attitude toward communism, L'HUMANITE has never made personal criticism of me or attacks on the Ivory Coast.

[Question] Do you have a really marked preference for economic liberalism?

[Answer] I prefer liberalism but I insist that it respect other people's interests; for instance, I will never stop condemning those who claim to follow economic liberalism yet at the same time systematically exploit the Third World by indulging in shameful speculation. The law of supply and demand only operates between countries whose level of development is more or less equal. There is constant trickery in the economic relations between developed and underdeveloped countries since the former set the prices of raw materials, allocate them for their own benefit alone and freely determine the prices of goods and services sold to the undeveloped countries. It is shameful that we cannot even discuss the price of the raw materials which we export.

[Question] Does the Ivory Coast in particular suffer from the egotistical attitude adopted by the developed countries?

[Answer] Yes, of course. The Ivoirian planters' income will be cut by half this year simply because of speculation carried out on the cocoa market outside Africa. Indeed, income from Ivoirian cocoa exports has fallen from 700 to 350 billion CFA francs (1 CFA franc is equal to Fr 1.02).

[Question] Do you think--some European experts do--that black Africa has had a bad start?

[Answer] I am convinced that the trade system which exists between Africa and the rest of the world is hindering our continent's real development and constitutes a constant threat of destabilization for Africa.

[Question] Black Africa, however, does not experience more political crises. [as published] Does not the Ivory Coast in particular show real stability?

[Answer] The trees of stability should not conceal the wood of instability. Of course the stability of the Ivoirian, Senegalese, Guinean, Cameroonian and Gabonese trees is not in doubt. But there are serious threats of instability everywhere else....

[Question] What are the reasons for this state of affairs?

[Answer] The outside world bears most responsibility, be it the Eastern bloc countries or the West. The Soviets are consistent: They know that the communist virus dies where happiness flourishes and therefore they are not prepared to really help the Africans to overcome underdevelopment because they do not want Africa to be happy. The Western countries worry me much more because of their lack of awareness. The Third World's povery is, in fact, the direct result of their egoism and their lack of imagination. Instead of turning the African Continent into a vast market in which to sell its own products, the West jeopardizes the survival of our populations by its negative attitude.

[Question] What is your view of African military regimes?

[Answer] Any statesman must respect other heads of state, those whom people have chosen and those who have imposed themselves on people. That is a duty.

[Question] What is your view of nationalism?

[Answer] It is as old as the hills. Just look at Iran: Despite internal tensions its people immediately mobilized when the Iraqi external threat took shape. It also has negative aspects when xenophobic feelings are awakened. On this subject I find it surprising that the French people, of whom there are 55 million, could be worried about the presence of 2 million foreigners in their country yet fail to understand our anxieties when we number 7 million and have 1.5 million foreigners residing permanently in the Ivory Coast....

[Question] Are you still a firm advocate of the single-party system?

[Answer] I am not hostile to the multiparty system--the system laid down by the Ivoirian constitution and toward which we are moving. For the moment we must attain some form of national unity. However, colonization has left us with states and not nations. In the Ivory Coast, for instance, our 60 tribes have different approaches to political life, speak different languages, and observe different customs. In Corsica or Brittany it is possible to be a communist, radical socialist, socialist or something else, because that does not undermine Corsican or Breton unity since each person is French before being Corsican or Breton. I would like to be able to make the same observations about the Ivory Coast but it is not yet the case....

LIBERIA

GOVERNMENT TO DISCONTINUE SUBSIDY ON IMPORTED RICE

AB142057 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] It has been announced that government subsidy on the importation of rice into the country is expected to be discontinued soon. The announcement was made by People's Redemption Council [PRC] Speaker J. Nicholas Podier. The move is intended to make the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation [LPMC] more functional and at the same time increase the price of rice on the local market to encourage local dealers go in for more rice and at the same time insure maximum production of rice by local farmers. This was disclosed yesterday evening in a special television panel discussion in Monrovia by PRC Speaker J. Nicholas Podier. He said, in view of the present financial constraints faced by government, it would be necessary to cut off the subsidy on rice to enable government to concentrate on infrastructural projects throughout the country.

On the question of increasing the price of rice on the local market, Speaker Podier did not say when or by how much will the price of rice be increased. He, however, admonished Liberians to return to the soil to make the country economically independent, adding that Liberians must be committed to solving their own problems at least with little outside help.

In another move, Speaker Podier said the abolition of port tax and the increment in salaries at the national level should serve as encouragement for Liberians to engage in meaningful social and economic projects in the interest of the people.

Also speaking during the television panel discussions was PRC committee co-chairman for commerce, industry and transportation Cpt Robert Buwoko, who blamed the men of the Commerce Ministry as well as the management of the LPMC, for the low-grade rice being imported into the country. He suggested that before any rice is imported, the Commerce Ministry should make sure that the commodity is examined and declared safe for consumption.

For his part, Agricultural Minister 1st Lt Alfred Suah disclosed that his minister has embarked on the clearing of about 8,000 acres of farmlands in several parts of the country for cultivation of rice.

MALI

BEYE ASKS SAHARA VOTE WITHOUT NEW REGISTRATION

AB141334 Paris AFP in French 1135 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] Bamako, 14 Jul (AFP)--Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye Tuesday called for a strict and rapid implementation of the OAU resolution on the referendum in Western Sahara without prior new voter registration. In an interview with AFP, Alioune Blondin Beye, whose country is a member state of the committee in charge of the referendum decided upon at the OAU summit, stated that the registration of those entitled to vote is the key issue, which is not insuperable, even though it is now difficult to solve. He stated that objective data can be collected through contacts with the parties involved. Each has its own relevant documents and the former colonial power and the United Nations have records.

The committee will appraise them after investigating the authenticity of all declarations made by the parties involved, Mr Beye said before adding: If the records made available to us are relevant enough, there will be no problems, but if we ought to take precautions, then we will do so.

The Malian minister recalled the major tasks of the committee and emphasized the full powers accorded it by the OAU and the possible assitance by the United Nations in connection with the practical measures to be taken. He also emphasized the need for consultations with all parties involved in order to help them solve the problems among themselves.

In this regard, Mr Beye said it was not necessary for the committee to hold a conference with all the parties involved, as some of them do not want to get in touch with others, like Morocco with the Polisario. We could ask each of them to provide us with memoranda in which they explain their stance on the conditions for the cease-fire and referendum.

We are aware that the longer the conflict lasts, the more complicated the situation in the region and in the subregion will become, Mr Beye pointed out. Finally, he recalled that the OAU resolution provided for the holding of a meeting of the committee before the end of August.

NIGERIA

REACTION TO 10 JUL KANO DISTURBANCES CONTINUES

Shagari Appeal

AB141609 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has repeated his call on Nigerians to respect the law and all institutions which exist under the constitution for the peaceful and orderly government of the country. These institutions, he said, are the executive, the legislature, the judiciary, the traditional rulers and law enforcement agencies. He called on politicians and sections of the mass media to desist from actions which tended to create an atmosphere of tension. In a statement on last Friday's riots in Kano, President Shehu Shagari said he was greatly disturbed by the loss of lives and wanton destruction of property. He called on all well-meaning Nigerians to join him in condemning the act of vandalism and lawlessness. The president observed that the nation was on trial and declared: We must not fail ourselves.

President Shehu Shagari sent his condolence to the governor of Kano State and to the families of the victims on the incident.

NPN Denial

AB141652 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The National Party of Nigeria [NPN] has condemned those peddling rumors that it masterminded last Friday's Kano riots. In a statement in Lagos today, the party described as unfortunate and malicious claims in the House of Representatives and by the nine governors that it had anything to do with the rampage in anyway. The statement signed by the national secretary, Alhaji Suleiman Takuma, said that the NPN had a mission to perform in the country and this was to forge unity, stability and progress. It explained that having been given the mandate by the people to fulfill its aspirations, it was inconsiderable that the NPN will stir up disorder in any part of the country. On the contrary, continued the statement, the cause of the rampage could be traced to what the party described as the excess of the Kano State executive.

In another development, the Nigerian People's Party [NPP] has reacted to a statement by the NPN yesterday accusing its leader of going into a secret deal with the Unity Party of Nigeria [UPN]. In a statement today, the NPP said that the allegation was totally false, unfounded and mischievous. It was the belief of the NPP that the NPN was driven to desperation by its notice it gave to terminate the accord between them. The party emphasized that its national leader, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, had not initiated any such agreement with the UPN or any other political party.

Press Editorials

AB141619 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Text] In their opinion, the NIGERIAN HERALD and the DAILY SKETCH focus on last week's violence in Kano. The HERALD blames the incident on those it describes as overzealous politicians who demonstrate no respect for constituted institutions. The paper particularly accuses Governor Abubakar Rimi of negligence and irresponsibility both of which, it says, are detrimental to the traditional and cultural background of the people of Kano. The HERALD strongly believes that it is abominable to give the emir of Kano a query on frivolous and baseless charges concluding that the governor should be held responsible for the bloody riot.

Continuing its editorial on the incident the DAILY SKETCH alleges that the mob action was staged with the cooperation of the police. The paper describes as most incomprehensible the Kano State police commissioner's continued silence over his reported assertion that Kano people were fighting to protect their traditional institution.

INVESTIGATION OF CAMEROON DAM BUILDING BEGUN

AB141028 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The ministry of External Affairs and the Lake Chad Basin Commission are conducting an investigation into allegations that Cameroon is constructing a hydroelectricity dam on the River Benue. The minister of water resources, Alhaji Ndagi Mahmudu, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA in Lagos that the investigation would determine the volume of water involved and the extent of the operation.

ASSEMBLYMEN SAY CAMEROON GETTING OIL FROM NIGERIA

AB141021 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NIGERIAN STANDARD has published a statement by some members of the National Assembly calling for immediate oil exploration of the Nigerian side of the Lake Chad basin because of the unfriendly activities of the Republic of Cameroon in the area. It believes that Cameroon is already getting oil from Nigeria's own side of the border and calls on the Federal Government to do something to stop this [word indistinct].

The STANDARD concludes by requesting the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) to tell the nation the results of oil exploration in the Chad basin which began during the military regime because, according to it, such exploration will help the government to determine what line of action to take.

NEW KADUNA STATE GOVERNOR SETS PRIORITIES

AB141506 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi, has said that his first preoccupation will be to insure a stable and effective administration. He said he will do this by bringing into his cabinet people who would genuinely contribute to the peace and progress of the state, no matter their political leaning. The governor was speaking in a television interview in Kaduna last night. He gave the assurance that he would go straight to work by appointing his deputy next week and the cabinet by the end of the month. Governor Abba Musa Rimi pledged that he would seek the advice of well-meaning people and appeal to majority opinion in order to bring about the stability that had eluded the state since the inception of civilian rule in 1979.

In answer to a question, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi stressed his belief in the rule of law and the mutual coexistence adding that his acceptance of the post of governor stemmed from this belief. He said that he would also give priority attention to the crisis within his party, the People's Redemption Party. In this regard, the governor stated that he would try to reconcile the warring factions because he believed that the disagreement arose from differences in the approach to the party's ideological concept.

On the meetings of the nine governors, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi emphasized that he had no intention at the moment to participate, adding that the question of the nine governors meeting could be considered only after peace and good government have been achieved. He pointed out, however, that Nigerians were attaching too much importance to the meeting and that this attitude encouraged the governors. The governor, therefore, appealed to the people of Kaduna State to cooperate with him in the interest of peace and good government and promised to provide the basis for such peace and prosperity.

ANGOLA

CUBAN SUGAR MINISTRY DELEGATION SUBMITS PLAN

LD101620 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0930 GMT 10 Jul 81

[Text] Luanda, 9 Jul (ANGOP)--A Cuban Sugar Ministry delegation, which recently paid a working visit to Angola, has submitted a plan to put the "Herois de Caixito" sugar factory back into operation. During its stay in the country, the Cubans had talks with an Angolan delegation led by Deputy Industry Minister Justino Fernandes and toured sugar factories in Benguela. In the next few days the Cubans are to begin studying the modernization of the "Amizade Angola-Cuba" sugar factory.

Twelve technicians who came with the delegation are remaining behind until the end of this month to complete rebuilding studies of four sugar factories aimed at restoring their maximum production capacity within the present 5-year period.

Plans to modernize Angola's sugar industry were drawn up at the fourth intergovernmental joint meeting in Havana in May which discussed matters of industry and agriculture.

SOUTH AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE REQUESTS PERMISSION TO CONTACT DEFECTOR

LD141635 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The Government of Mozambique has officially asked the South African Government for permission to contact the pilot of the MiG-17 aircraft who defected to South Africa last week. This has been confirmed in Pretoria by the head of the African Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Mr Ray Killen. He did not indicate when a reply would go to Maputo. The South African interior minister said earlier that the pilot, Lt Andriano Bomba, had made an official request for political asylum in South Africa. This would be examined in due course.

SECURITY FORCES TO TARGET SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA

LD141120 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Jul 81

[Text] The general commanding the territory force of South-West Africa/Namibia, Maj Gen Charles Lloyd, says the security forces are now following a new approach in their fight against SWAPO. He told a news conference at Oshakati that terrorist bases instead of individual terrorists would in future be the target. General Lloyd said the security forces had been instructed to follow terrorists to their bases in southern Angola and to destroy the bases. These tactics would continue until SWAPO's military power had been destroyed. He said the best way to protect the people of South-West Africa/Namibia was to destroy SWAPO terrorists wherever they (?found) themselves.